



Sketching out city life

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Fun in the sun this winter

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Venues get stamps of approval



The fourth set of Olympic commemorative stamps went on sale yesterday morning following a launch ceremony at the newly-built National Indoor Stadium. The new series, called "XXIX Olympiad Competition Venues," includes six stamps and a separate small sheet. With limited circulation and a total denomination of 8.6 yuan,

the stamps feature the China Agriculture University Gymnasium, Laoshan Velodrome, the National Indoor Stadium, Beijing University Gymnasium, the National Aquatics Center and the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center. The attached sheet features the National Stadium, also known as the "Bird's Nest," and is priced at six yuan.

Photo by David Wei

好运北京
GOOD LUCK BEIJING

**Pre-Games
sports special**

The 'Good Luck
Beijing' series

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China and South Korea fight over fengshui

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Dance workshop aims for young disabled people

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New protected architecture list includes 798 Art District

By Jiang Xubo

The buildings in 798 Art District are among 71 architectural groups which will be entitled to better protection thanks to new regulations on contemporary architecture protection issued Wednesday by the city's urban development planner and cultural heritage protection watchdog.

About 200 buildings are named excellent examples of contemporary architecture on the first list, which was issued by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning (BMCUP) and the Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritages.

Listed buildings include museums, theaters, stadiums, college campuses, hospitals, plants, department stores, office buildings, hotels, apartments and *siheyuan* – traditional courtyard homes dating back as early as 1860.

The best-known buildings include the Great Hall of the People, the Beijing Exhibition Center, the Beijing Workers' Stadium, the Beijing Waterworks' plant, the Beijing Hotel, the Friendship Hospital, Qijiayuan Diplomatic Residence Compound and Beijing University buildings.

Listed buildings face no

risk of demolition, and will be relocated to new sites when necessary if found to obstruct urban planning.

Authorities are considering hanging bronze plates outside the listed buildings to explain their history.

The buildings, built between 1840 and 1976 – the period between the first Opium War and the Cultural Revolution – illustrate the city's architectural history and have great historical, artistic and scientific value, Wen Zongyong, a spokesperson for the BMCUP said.

The list is an important step

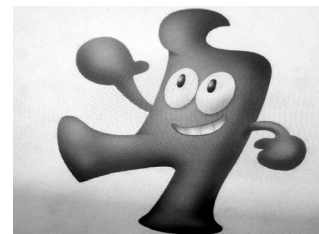
in more comprehensive heritage protection in the capital, he said.

"Authorities are working on detailed measures to protect as well as use the buildings," Wen said.

The first group of preserved buildings is mainly clustered in the capital's downtown, especially in the Dongcheng, Xicheng and Haidian districts. The architecture census will extend to all contemporary buildings across the capital's 16,000 square kilometer domain, and more lists are expected, the spokesman said.

The full list is available at bjghw.gov.cn/doc/111.doc.

Expo mascot revealed as blue treasure



The mascot

IC Photo

Shanghai unveiled its mascot for the 2010 World Expo on Tuesday evening.

The mascot, named Haibao, literally "treasure of the world," is a blue, smiling cartoon figure with curly hair and is shaped based on the Chinese character ren. Its thumb is cocked "as if inviting the whole world ... to the expo."

It was presented during a televised ceremony at the Shanghai Grand Stage in front of an audience of 9,000.

"Haibao is a jolly, simple, confident and cute kid," Shao Longtu, design team principal, said.

"Its dominant color, blue, represents the Earth, dreams, ocean, life and technology, which is not only a perfect match for the Expo theme of 'better city, better living,' but also an emblem of the country to be integrated into the whole world," Shao said.

During the 135-day global recruitment campaign, the organizers collected 26,655 draft designs from 21 countries, 60 percent of which were from people ages 10 to 30. On average, the organizers received eight drafts per hour, making it one of the country's most popular mascot design campaigns.

A committee of 11 members, including experts in fine arts, design, marketing and cartoons from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Italy and Portugal, began work on the final selection in late June, the Shanghai Morning News reported.

The world expo is the first all-around exhibition to be held in China, Liu Jun, who was in charge of the recruitment project, said.

(By Li Fenghua)

New slaughter method may silence squeals

By Han Manman

A new draft slaughter standard has made Henan Province pigs' transition from porker to pork a little easier for the animals to accept.

Henan Province is the first in the country to comply with new humane slaughter methods introduced in recent national guidelines, and training will extend across the whole country next year.

The "China Humane Animal Slaughter" launch ceremony was held in Henan Province last Sunday. The region produces 10 percent of all Chinese pigs bound for slaughter. Six people were certified as slaughter trainers at the ceremony.

The draft, will focus on pigs during the trial period. New rules specify that pigsty walls must be opaque to prevent live pigs from witnessing the slaughter, and parallel passages must replace single passages to prevent pigs from panicking. The slaughterhouse must also use plastic batons instead of tasers to drive the pigs forward, because tasers cause the pigs to panic and squeal loudly.

After the pigs are knocked unconscious by electric current, they must be killed within 15 seconds instead of the previous 30 seconds to avoid having the animals wake, thus sparing them from consciousness during the slaughter.

"A basic requirement of the slaughter process is to stun the animal before ending its life," Mi Yali, an expert in humane slaughter methods, said. "This is to reduce the degree of suffering. Animals, like human beings, can get extremely scared."

The standard will be officially released soon, and 20,000 commercial slaughterhouses across the country will be trained in humane slaughter methods.

Research indicates that panicked pigs secrete unhealthy substances, which causes the whitish color in pork and spreads certain bodily fluids into the tissues. Humane slaughter allegedly results in higher meat quality, which could translate into profits for pork enterprises.

Reunited for 8 years



The government in Macao Special Administration Region held a flag raising ceremony yesterday at local Golden Lotus Square to mark the eighth anniversary of the region's return to the Chinese mainland.

Xinhua Photo

Nation sets up center to manage oil reserves

By Jiang Xubo

The country's economic-planning agency announced on Wednesday that its first of four planned strategic oil bases has been filled with crude oil, one day after the announcement of the establishment of its national center to manage its strategic petroleum reserves.

The first facility in Zhenhai, Zhejiang Province has a storage capacity of 5.2 million cubic meters. And after one year of trial operation, now all the tanks at the base have been filled up with crude oil, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said in a statement at its website.

Construction of the reserves began in 2004. The other bases

are under construction in Zhoushan, also in Zhejiang province, in Huangdao Shandong Province and Dalian in Liaoning Province. All reserves are expected to be ready within the next year.

The establishment of these oil reserves is an important measure to respond to sudden incidents, prevent supply disruption hazards and protect the nation's resource security, the agency said in its online statement.

The reserves are meant to store the equivalent of 30 days of imports, or about 70 million barrels of oil, Xinhua reported.

The newly established management center, under NDRC, will regulate operations of the reserves, including filling of tanks and authorizing the release of oil,

the agency said.

In addition, the center will also keep an eye on changes of demand and supply in both domestic and international oil markets.

The commission didn't specify market conditions under which the center would release oil.

The country, now the world's second largest oil consumer after the US, imports half its crude requirements.

The country imported some 150 million tons of crude oil in the first 11 months, up about 15 percent on that of the same period of last year, according to a report issued by the General Administration of Customs.

The country supplied its own needs for decades from domestic oil fields but has become a net importer since 1993.

Brief news

Local pet birds on new protected list

Formerly pet birds, such as the mynah, thrush and grackle, are forbidden to trade in the capital starting next year thanks to a new protected species list issued this week by the municipal government, which includes the pets for the first time.

More African college students

Over 3,700 African students came to study in Chinese universities last year, a 40 percent increase from the 2,760 who came in 2005, according to a report issued this week by the Ministry of Education.

10.6 billion subway passengers in 37 years

As of last Friday, the capital's subway has carried 10.6 billion passengers since operations began in 1971, the Beijing Mass Transit Railway Operation Company, the subway operator, announced this week.

(By Li Fenghua)

Guizhou pupil prostitution teacher and ringleader gets death

By Jiang Xubo

Two teachers who sold pupils as young as 11 years old to men seeking sex with virgins have been sentenced to death, the local Guizhou City Newspaper reported Tuesday.

Zhao Qingmei, 28, the ring's mastermind, was convicted by a local court last Friday of forcing 23 girls from a school where she and another convicted teacher taught into prostitution in Guizhou Province. Six of the girls

were 14 years old or younger.

Her husband Chi Yao, a teacher at a local middle school, was sentenced to death with two years' reprieve for his participation in the ring, as well as intercourse with a minor. If he behaves well in prison for the next two years, his sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment.

One of the first victims was Chi Yao's niece. The woman brought her and her classmate in March

to her home last year under the pretext of being needed for some "farm work."

The following day, the girls were delivered to a local hotel where two men paid 4,900 yuan to rape the girls, according to court records.

Zhao told the girls she would kill them if they told what happened, according to court records.

After the first transaction, she was inspired to form a ring to

supply allegedly virgin girls for sexual acts, citing limited income potential from her teaching position, the newspaper reported.

By the time authorities uncovered the abuses in June, 23 girls in Weining County and nearby areas had been forced into prostitution, according to court testimony.

Chi and Zhao fled to Sichuan Province in July. A month later, police issued a nation-wide warrant for their arrest and appre-

hended them in August.

Another couple, Hai Long, a teacher at the school, and his wife Li Huiyan were sentenced to 11 and 13 years in prison for forcing students into the prostitution ring.

There are two of more than a dozen people jailed for collaboration, including the hotel owners.

Their collaborators made as much as 32,350 yuan from the vice activities.

Nation's laozihao on display



A man demonstrates traditional tea art at the fourth national fair for laozihao, or historical brands. The four-day fair, which started yesterday in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, attracted about 100 laozihao from across the country, including food and beverage and folk art brands.

Photo by Shi Jianxue

Sixty days without food to fight drugs

By Han Manman

A man is on a 60-day fast inside a glass cubicle in a local park to raise money for the poor and urge people to abstain from drugs. If he succeeds, he will break the current world record of going 49 days without food.

Li Zhengjia, a 43-year sculptor, began his fast last Saturday morning in a park in Tianjin Municipality. The start of his fast drew crowds, as well as a few lawyers.

Park visitors have a clear view of the 24-square-meter cubicle. Unlike previous fast challengers who sleep through it, Li has continued to write and sculpt during daylight.

An air conditioning unit has been installed to keep his cubicle at 15 degrees centigrade. Visitors can also see Li's head when he uses the toilet, so it can be observed that he is not eating anything.

Li's sculptures will be sold on the spot, and all proceeds will be donated to the Tianjin anti-drug Charity Association.

The sculptor is obsessed with traditional Chinese medicine and came up with the fast challenge a dozen years prior. Since 1996, he has held repeated fast trials and achieved 81 days without food last year.

Before entering the cubicle, he ate his "last meal" of fried bread, an egg and some vegetables. Li said his past experiences showed that it is better to eat little before beginning a fast.

"I hope to draw more people's attention to my efforts to help the poor and fight against drug abuse," Li said.

Three days before the fast, he spent more time sleeping and said the body must be sensitive to caloric consumption in the beginning stage of a fast. Three days without drinking was also part of his preparations.

Li will not eat any food during his confinement, and will kill time by writing and sculpting. He will subsist solely on water.

Doctors will enter the cubicle every 10 days for a health check, and keep in daily contact with him by telephone. Wang Yehong, a doctor, said that if Li's life is in danger, they will interrupt his fast.

Police push villagers to hunt pandas

By Jiang Xubo

Authorities are investigating reports that local police pushed Sichuan Province villagers to poach pandas for their pelts.

"We have sent a group to supervise the investigations and will prosecute anyone involved," Cao Qingyao, spokesman for the State Forestry Administration (SFA), said Friday at a public press release.

The release confirmed that the local police had seen a series of panda killings around Ya'an city, whose reserve is home to about 300 wild pandas.

Pandas hunted for pelts

The announcement comes in the wake of the Guangzhou-based *Southern Weekend* newspaper's reports last week that unidentified buyers were offering huge sums of money for giant panda pelts.

Cui Xuezhen, a panda protection expert in Baoxing County, told the weekly paper that 19 giant pandas had been killed and skinned in the past 20 years.

A single panda pelt can fetch as much as 500,000 yuan, a mas-

sive draw for villagers who earn as little as 3,000 yuan per year.

Li Qijun, a 32-year local hunter, was sentenced to 10 years in prison this September for gunning down a panda in early June. He skinned the animal and abandoned its body - the latest panda poaching incident in the mountainous city.

The hunter confessed that a fellow villager, 36-year-old Hu Hongqiang, had offered 250,000 yuan for the pelt.

Local police believe Hu has worked as the middleman the past several years, purchasing panda pelts for shadowy buyers from nearby Rongchang County, Chongqing Municipality.

Hu was also sent down for 10 years in prison for his part in the illegal trade.

Pushed into poaching?

The alleged buyer, Gan Hailong, turned out to be a Rongchang police informant, who had played a role in solving several major panda poaching cases the past several years. All cases he worked on have resulted

in arrests in Rongchang County, the *China Youth Daily* reported.

Cui Xuezhen, a local panda expert and former director of Baoxing County's forestry administration, said the police may have collaborated through their "informants" to coax villagers into hunting pandas not for pelts, but for prizes.

The Baoxing police have been awarded many top prizes since the 1980s by the Ministry of Public Security and SFA for solving cases of panda poaching, the report said.

He Yong, former chief of the Rongchang County police squad, confirmed that Gan was a police informant in a written document submitted to a local court, but denied involvement in manipulating the villagers.

Officers who answered phone calls said they were not authorized to comment and refused further query.

Informants 'hired' to solve crimes

Cui said hunting pandas for pelts was a local tradition before

it made the endangered species list, and some villagers still hide old pelts from the local authorities in hopes of one day making a fortune.

Since the end of the pelt collection campaign in late 1980s, all panda pelts are considered evidence of panda slaughter.

Cui said local police hired informers, masquerading as businessmen eager to purchase panda pelts from local villages as part of their collection efforts.

"It was wrong. Police claimed that the pelts were valuable, which was like prize advertising. Villagers were willing to sell any pelts passed down through their families, and it probably inspired a person or two to go hunt down a panda," Cui told the newspaper.

In reality, there were no buyers: all pelts ended up in the hands of the police.

Wild giant pandas are found exclusively in China. About 1,590 pandas live in the wild, mostly in the mountains of southwestern China.

Where will they go?



Songzhuang is known for its "original art."

Land dispute may make artists homeless

By Han Manman

Painter Li Yulan's purchase of a farmhouse in Songzhuang in 2002 was ruled invalid Monday and she was ordered to evacuate within 90 days.

For the other 1,500 artists who live in the art community Songzhuang village, especially for eleven, who were also sued, the news has come as a bolt out of the blue for them. They have to face a tough problem, where to go if they lose their current houses.

Homeless

When the Beijing No2 Intermediate People's Court Monday ruled that artist Li Yulan pack up her belongings and vacate her home within 90 days, she was shocked.

According to the judgment, the contract between Li and the accuser is invalid, and she will get a compensation of 93,808 yuan for moving out of the house.

"I am homeless" Li said, holding her one-year-old daughter, adding that she has not enough money to buy another house in the current high-price housing market. "It's even hard for us to rent," Li said. To rent a house in Songzhuang village previously cost only 2,000 yuan per year, but now even 20,000 yuan is not enough.

The sentence was a shock to Li's husband, who is a painter and 10 years her junior. The judgment left him bed-ridden.

Five years ago, Li paid local peasant Ma Haitao 45,000 yuan in cash for a rural house that Ma hadn't lived in for two years and spent 100,000 yuan for renovations. Ma was happy to sell and walked away with a tidy sum by the standards of rural China in summer 2002. But as real estate values around Beijing started to soar, and Songzhuang prices quadrupled due to their reputation as an arts center, Ma regretted his sale and wanted his property back and sued Li.

"For his benefit, he even dismisses honesty," Li said. Although the court did not award her compensation, she said she could obtain compensation by suing the vendor for breach of contract. "The court finally left us some hope. I plan to push ahead with my lawsuit and will not settle until I get a fair offer," Li said.

Will the artist village disappear?

Lots of Songzhuang artists gathered at the court Monday with many of them also facing similar lawsuits and Li's outcome basically would reflect their chances of winning or losing. After hearing the court's verdict, the other artists began to worry about their own futures. They were afraid they would be facing the same fate as Li Yulan – given no choice but to move out of the village.

Critics and officials fear the case will set a precedent and lead to more artists who bought properties in Songzhuang being sued by local farmers. They said the case may trigger an exodus of artists.

"We are worried that more and more farmers are going to



Many artists were afraid they would be facing the same fate as Li Yulan – given no choice but to move out of the village. Photos by Rain Tian



No luck has come for Wang Lize, 57, a prosecuted artist.

Photo by Cao Boyuan



Yang and his family have lived in this small but beautiful house for 10 years.

Photo by Yang Dawei

want their houses back now," painter Cheng Li said.

Yang Dawei is being prosecuted among the twelve. The original seller asked Yang to move out of the house because of the invalid contract and took him to court with the others last October.

"Although my lawsuit has not

yet been heard, I think I will lose," Yang said. His home has already become the conference center for Songzhuang artists to discuss lawsuit issues and countermeasures.

"I have no place to go if they ask me to move out. The compensation is far from enough to buy a house," Yang said.

He said Songzhuang for artists here is meaningful, where the village could witness their wandering lifestyle. "I have lived here for over 10 years, my children were born here and believe this to be their home."

He said the artists had a very tough life when they moved in years ago. Songzhuang had not gained notoriety. There were no private toilets or even enough food.

Yang said they don't expect "miracles" in the verdict since "regulations are regulations, and everyone must obey them," but he hopes for a fair result. "We brought attention to Songzhuang allowing it to prosper and grow and become well-known, but what will Songzhuang do for us?" he said.

Temporary housing

An official from Songzhuang said the local government does not want to see artists removed one by one.

"However, we could not intervene in the court's judgment," he said remaining anonymous. The official said the local government is considering providing some cheap, temporary housing for artists who lose in court.

Rao Yunfeng from the Songzhuang Art Promotion Association said the Songzhuang government actually was very supportive in urging artists to buy the villagers' houses because they thought the properties were different from "rural housing land" concepts.

"Li's loss is something we don't want to see. Songzhuang is becoming known for 'original art' and such a case will largely reduce the number of artists who want to move here."

Rao said Songzhuang is left with many empty houses due to "expelled artists."

Background

Twelve artists in Songzhuang, Tongzhou District, have been sued over a housing dispute between them and the villagers since last October. Li Yulan was the first case to be tried.

Since the mid-1990s, 1,500 artists, art dealers, collectors, critics and curators from home and abroad have settled in the 47 villages under the Songzhuang Township, particularly in Xiaopu Village. Today Songzhuang is widely recognized as one of the largest original artists' communities in China. The first group of artists in Songzhuang bought the houses from the villagers in 1994. Among these 1,500 artists, about 200 bought houses, while the others rented.

The rural housing land is the root of the housing disputes. Under Chinese laws and regulations, the transition of the rural housing land has strict limits: rural housing land owned by the country can only be used for building a house, and its transition is only permitted amongst the villagers living in the same village.

Surge of reports crashes new anti-corruption website

(Telegraph Daily) – A government website set up for the public to complain about corruption crashed within a day of launch under the volume of cases reported.

"The enthusiasm that greeted the launch of the website reflects the growing frustration felt by the general public towards corruption at government level," the

Xinhua wire service reported.

The website is currently back online and has received more than 20 pages of postings.

The new anti-corruption bureau is not empowered to investigate corruption, only to analyze and collect data on reported corrupt activity.

In July, the government executed Zheng Xiaoyu, former

senior drug regulator, for accepting millions of dollars in bribes to approve substandard medicines, including an antibiotic directly responsible for the deaths of 10 people.

Many of the messages lodged on the website were congratulatory, but nearly as many were from skeptical members of the public who questioned its work.

Background

The Communist Party of China (CPC) will intensify its fight against corruption, and the effort will have a "more prominent place" on its agenda, a top-level Party meeting presided by President Hu Jintao declared on Tuesday.

The Party and government will "carry on the fight against corruption comprehensively, address its symptoms and root causes and combine punishment with prevention – with the emphasis on prevention," a statement issued after a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC said.

In his report to the congress, Hu said the country would continue its efforts to build a clean government and fight corruption.

The meeting urged Party discipline organizations and government supervision departments to speed up their work on formulating a plan to improve the anti-corruption system between 2008 and 2012.

In September, China established its first National Bureau of Corruption Prevention to stop corruption at its source by reforming systems and closing loopholes in policies.

A number of ministerial-level or higher Chinese officials have fallen to serious corruption charges in the last five years.

Last year, as many as 90,000 officials were disciplined: 0.14 percent of all CPC members.

(Agencies)

China Bible publisher prints 50 millionth

(earthtime.co.uk) – A Christian group in China says it has printed its 50 millionth Bible, many of which go to domestic believers.

Amity Printing, the only authorized Bible publisher in the country, has printed about 43 million copies of the Bible for Chinese believers.

The remaining 7 million were exported to more than 60 countries and regions around the world, Xinhua news agency reported Saturday.

Copies were published in Braille and eight languages.

Ye Xiaowen, head of the State Administration for Religious Affairs, said the government supports printing and publishing Bibles in China, the news agency reported.

City gets its first guide dog for the blind

(Reuters) – A Chinese Paralympic athlete is the proud owner of the first guide dog in the capital.

"It is as if I can see again," the *Beijing Youth Daily* quoted Ping Yali, who won China's first Paralympic gold in long jump at the 1984 Games, as saying.

Beijing is a sprawling city with few facilities for the handicapped and guide dogs are rare in China, where the blind usually receive some education but find it hard to get jobs.

Ping, a torch bearer for the 2008 Olympic Games, said she hoped to take her dog with her on the route, but is worried she may be denied as dogs are banned from many public areas.

Torch arrives in Brazil



An exhibition on the Beijing 2008 Olympic torch opened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday. The torch arrived in Rio de Janeiro the same day and was displayed in the city's theater.

Xinhua Photo

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Outlook

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Gov suggests foreign banks expand in interior

(Reuters) – Foreign banks, which are expanding rapidly in China, will gain preference if they apply to move into the country's less-developed interior, a banking official said Tuesday.

The government opened its doors to foreign banks last December, honoring a promise it made when the country joined the World Trade Organization in 2001.

So far, 13 foreign lenders have incorporated locally, a precondition required by the banking regulator for full access to the retail banking market.

"We will keep guiding foreign banks to expand reasonably in

China and give preferences to their applications to branch into middle and western regions," Qi Jianming, a senior official from the China Banking Regulatory Commission said in an online interview broadcast on the central government's website.

Five foreign banks – Citibank, Standard Chartered, Bank of East Asia, HSBC and Hang Seng Bank – have won approval to issue debit cards after they finished technical preparations, the official said.

Qi said that his office would keep a close eye on large amounts of cross-border capital flows of foreign lenders.

The official also said the authorities will continue to support domestic lenders bringing in foreign strategic investors and would increase the stake caps on foreign lenders in Chinese banks "appropriately and when the time is ripe."

Under the current rules, a single foreign bank can take no more than a 20 percent stake in a Chinese lender and domestic banks can sell at most 25 percent of their equity to a group of foreign investors. Some 35 foreign banks have invested \$21 billion in 23 Chinese lenders.

By the end of October, total

assets of foreign banks operating in China, including 20 solely foreign-funded ones and three joint ventures, amounted to \$154 billion, 41 percent more than a year earlier and accounting for about 2.2 percent of the total assets of all Chinese financial institutions.

Their end-October outstanding loans and deposits were US \$89 billion and \$51 billion, up by 58 percent and about 39 percent than the same period last year respectively.

By contrast, yuan loans from all banks operating in China expanded about 18 percent in October from a year earlier.

Estimates shrink Chinese economy

By Huang Daohen

The country's economy is 40 percent smaller than previously thought, according to estimates published by the World Bank this week.

The ranking of 146 economies' buying power in US dollars was based on the prices of 1,000 goods and services in what the World Bank described as "the most extensive and thorough effort ever to measure purchasing power parity across countries."

PPP (purchasing power parity), rather than market exchange rates, is regarded as a better measure of the relative cost of living, since it is based on goods and services households can buy with their domestic currency.

The new PPP estimates show a 40 percent drop in the wealth of the Chinese people to US \$5.3 billion.

Citizens allowed to buy shares in UK

(FT) – Chinese citizens will soon be able to buy shares and mutual funds in London and New York through their local banks after a regulatory reform that marks a further step in the export of Chinese capital into global markets.

A scheme under which citizens can legally buy shares in Hong Kong will be extended to include London under an agreement between the China Banking Regulatory Commission and British regulators.

China is also negotiating a similar agreement with US regulators to further extend it to New York markets, a CBRC statement said.

Although the amount of money available to invest in London is expected to amount to only a few billion dollars initially, the government will allow more funds out of the country once it considers the program to be operating properly.

It has two aims in allowing its citizens' money offshore: relieving domestic economic imbalances from the build-up of excess liquidity in the financial system, and seeking more balanced, long-term returns for retirement funds. Under the scheme known as Qualified Domestic Institutional Investors, the government has, since early last year, approved local fund managers and banks to invest money offshore.

Twenty-one commercial banks had approved quotas totaling US \$15 billion at the end of September, according to an official website. However, not all of these quotas have been filled, as investors have preferred to put their money for the moment into the fast-rising local bourse.

Peter Alexander, of Z-Ben Advisers, a consultancy in Shanghai, said the recent volatility in Hong Kong markets might have encouraged the government to push ahead with expanding the QDII program. "While the returns in London might not be so high, the risks might not be as great [as in Hong Kong]," he said.

High-end Olympic goods available



The official jewels of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games were added to the shelf Wednesday, with several badges, rings and home decorations, all made of jade and precious metals.

Photo by Zhang Yu

Retailers show confidence in industry

By Huang Daohen

The optimism of the country's retailers has been buoyed by strong economic growth and consumers' rising income levels, but quality retail space is still in short supply, according to a recent survey.

International real estate services firm Jones Lang LaSalle surveyed 150 domestic and foreign retail chains at the end of last year on retailer sentiment in Asia.

Most respondents were confident about trading prospects in China this year, with 87 percent expecting gross turnover to increase and over 76 percent believing profit margins would remain the same or improve over the next 12 months.

The survey showed that 100 percent of retailers in China are

expected to expand their networks this year. None expected a decline in the total number of stores.

"The strong and positive results recorded for retailers in our survey reflect the aggressive expansion of the retail sector in China," Anna Kalifa, head of Research Jones Lang LaSalle in Beijing, said.

These expectations were based on how the gross domestic product has averaged about 9 percent annually over the last seven years, and has continued to be outpaced by retail sales growing at an annual rate of 10 percent.

The prosperity of China's tourism industry and demand for different types of retail real estate products also contributed to retailer optimism.

Fuel prices, taxes and occupancy costs have also emerged as retailers' biggest concerns.

Still, 87 percent of respondents said locating suitable sites for retail outlets would be difficult, mainly due to rising rental costs and lack of quality space.

The survey also noted that retailers are gradually embracing online shopping. When the inaugural Retailer Sentiment Survey-Asia was launched in 2004, online shopping was seen as having a negative impact, the net balance has moved to 3 percent in the 2005 survey, and in the latest survey, it registered a net balance of 10 percent.

Instead of viewing it as a competitor, retailers now see online shopping as another channel to increase sales, the survey said.

Volkswagen promotes road safety in China

By Han Manman

German auto giant Volkswagen launched a television advertising campaign for road safety modeled on Germany's successful "The Seventh Sense" series started last Friday in Beijing.

The German producers created the 11-part Chinese series "Volkswagen Safe Road" in cooperation with safety experts and four local television stations in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Dalian.

"Facing fast-growing traffic and a high share of new drivers on China's streets, Volkswagen initiated this program to contribute more to road safety – just as 'The Seventh Sense' did in Germany," Zhang Suixin, vice president of Volkswagen China, said.

Kerry EAS helps train future engineers

By Huang Daohen

An industrial engineering (IE) application competition for college students nationwide kicked off this past weekend in Beijing, with an aim to promote the development of IE science.

This event, held by the Kerry EAS Logistics and Industrial Engineering Department of Tsinghua University, lasted three months and was composed of various practical competitions.

Ten teams entered the final competition from the nation's top universities.

"This competition not only highlights the values of the IE theory being converted into the practical productive forces, but also reflects the urgent demands for the IE knowledge to be applied during the operation of the enterprises," Liu Xin, Corporate Development Manager of Kerry EAS Logistics, said.

As the comprehensive technology used to establish basic enterprise standards and improve industrial productivity, IE has played a significant role in the industrial development system, which remains at the elementary level in China and out of public view.

Debate of the week

ATM thief gets life sentence

By Huang Daohen

A theft case drew public attention recently when a thief was found guilty of stealing from a financial institution and sentenced to life in prison in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province.

On the evening of April 21, 2006, Xu Bo (pseudonym) went to withdraw money at an ATM machine in the Tianhe district of Guangzhou. He asked for and received 1,000 yuan, but discovered his bank account was only debited one yuan. He was ecstatic and kept withdrawing money.

That night, Xu refused his home and informed his friend, Guo. The two then returned to the ATM machine to withdraw more money. In total, Xu withdrew 175,000 yuan while Guo withdrew 18,000 yuan. Afterwards, the two fled with the money.

Guo turned himself in to the police later and gave back the 18,000 yuan. The Tianhe district court found him guilty of theft and sentenced him to one year in jail.

Xu, however, remained on the run for almost a year and spent all the 175,000 yuan. In May 2007, he was arrested in Shaanxi Province.

The discrepancy between the prison sentences for Xu and Guo has been a subject of contention.

Beijing buildings make Time's best list

By Huang Daohen

Three architectures in Beijing are on the list of the top 10 best architectural marvels as selected by *Time* to be published on December 24. The magazine revealed the list on its website.

The nest-like venue, the National Olympic Stadium, comes in at sixth on the list. Athletes at the Beijing Summer Games will compete in the venue by Herzog and de Meuron.

Besides, the new CCTV headquarters, a tetrahedral structure by Rem Koolhaas, and the Linked Hybrid, a retail and office complex by Steven Holl, took the seventh and eighth places.

Though many felt proud of the selections, Chen Zhihua, Professor at Tsinghua University, disagreed, saying that this is not a thing to show off.

There are similar selections happening almost every day both home and abroad, Chen said. "I'm opposed to such an evaluation method for architectural construction based solely on appearance. All aspects of the design should be considered."

China now seems to be a paradise for foreign architectural designers. Some designers' blueprints were not adopted abroad, but found favor in China, Chen said.



A file picture of Chinese fengshui master Peter So. The controversy over the origin of fengshui has sparked questions over fengshui's place in traditional culture.

IC Photo

China and South Korea fight over fengshui

By Huang Daohen

Fengshui is the traditional Chinese act of creating a harmonious environment, but a recent world intangible heritage application in Korea has triggered heated controversy over its origin and Chinese awareness of preserving its traditional culture.

A South Korean committee is preparing to have Fengshui listed on the UNESCO world intangible heritage list, the Guangzhou-based *New Express* reported recently.

The National Museum of Korea and a few dozen institutions have been looking to register the application since 2003, and it will be completed next year, the report said.

Nevertheless, both the Korean and Chinese governments do not have any plans to register fengshui on the UNESCO list.

The National Museum of

South Korea and the Cultural Heritage Administration have proven the official preparation for the application is false news, South Korea-based *Dong-A Ilbo* said on Tuesday.

The administration is only planning to apply for the registration of the Chosun Dynasty Royal Mausoleum and the South Coast dinosaur fossils next year, and has no plans for fengshui, the report said.

Whether or not South Korea applies to claim fengshui a world cultural heritage for its own country, the topic of China's traditional national culture has once again aroused attention.

South Korea succeeded in adding the Dragon Boat Festival, a celebration used to commemorate Qu Yuan, a Chinese patriot in olden times, into the World Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2005.

Recent media reports also

claim that traditional Chinese medicine, Chinese characters and *Hanfu*, traditional costume, are on Korea's list of world intangible heritage applications.

Though the art of fengshui has been seen as an indispensable part of Chinese culture for thousands of years, it is commonly denigrated as a superstition rather than recognized as a cultural phenomenon by the government.

The tradition failed to be mentioned on the shortlist, which includes 35 cultural arts, which China has drawn up in preparation for next year's World Intangible Cultural Heritage nomination procedure.

Last year, a Shanghai committee prepared to apply to have fengshui listed on the UNESCO world intangible heritage list, but with no obvious results.

Expert comment

The Republic of Korea is not to blame for its efforts to push forward fengshui, which arrived in the country over thousands of years ago, as a world heritage of the whole human race, Gao Bingzhong, sociological professor of Peking University said.

First of all, nothing illegal was found during the ROK's application process. It was different from the registration of normal brands and there was no need for the rush registration, he said.

"Some people charged the ROK with stealing our own cultural heritage which is not appropriate. Instead of blindly claiming sovereignty of the festival, the Chinese should pay more attention to the preservation of traditional culture," Gao said. "We do not have a systematic and authoritative set of laws on the protection of our traditional culture, whereas legislation of this field was instituted in Japan and the Republic of Korea as early as the mid-20th century."

On the other hand, education is needed to let more young people in China know and respect various forms of Chinese culture, Gao said. The traditional festivals originating from the grand civilization of China are the incarnation of the national spirit. These festivals seem to be in an inferior position compared with those imported from the West.

He said it is necessary to extend cooperation with other countries on the preservation of cultural heritage while endeavoring to introduce traditional Chinese culture to the international community.

Comment

Stealing again

Korea is trying to steal fengshui or geomancy for its own.

Korea stole the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, and now they're trying to take away fengshui or the geomancy theory. We should call for the support of the government.

— Chinese netizen

More popular in Korea

You'd be hard-pressed to find fengshui on Chinese soil, but in Korea, it's everywhere, including resident homes, cemeteries, and even the presiden-

tial election campaigns.

— Korean netizen

Replicated culture

Basically, Korean culture is "replicated" from the traditional Chinese culture. Taking this as its own culture and to apply for the world intangible heritage list, it's easily understood why the Chinese are angry.

— Japanese netizen

Korea wins

The Koreans are likely to win again. Nothing has shown that the application will fail as the process is backed by

all Korean nationals, from the country's president to the UN general-secretary.

— skylee

Breaking the circle

With traditional Asian culture facing the same modernization challenge, China and South Korea are the only representatives. Perhaps in the process of breaking through an encirclement, the Dragon Boat Festival and fengshui will become a shared cultural heritage in the East Asian cultural circle.

— Ian Lee, editor

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What To Expect?

Your physician will determine the ideal treatment plan for your needs. Generally, treatment involves two to four sessions, at four-week intervals. Right after treatment you may feel a light tingling sensation. You may experience slight swelling for a day or two. As new skin replaces dead tissue, your skin will flake, a sign that healing is underway. Your skin will look better immediately, and will steadily improve over the next few months.

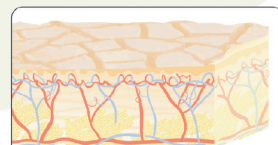


Does It Hurt?

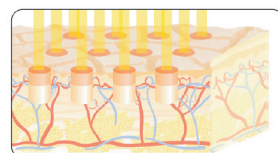
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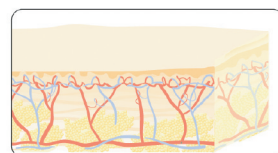
Pixel skin resurfacing can be used on patients of most skin types anywhere on the body. Since the procedure spares healthy tissue, it can be performed on delicate skin areas, such as the face, neck, chest and hands.



Before Treatment



During Pixel Skin Resurfacing



After Treatment

Before



After



Before



Before



After



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Dance workshop aims for young disabled people

By He Jianwei

The Northern Ballet Theater (NBT), based in the UK, will run a week-long dance workshop for young people this Monday to Friday as the first event of the Young Advocates Program: Developing the Paralympic Spirit, initiated by the British Council.

The 20 workshop participants, ages 18 to 25, from Beijing Union University, are not professional dancers, and 10 of them are disabled nominated by the China Disabled Persons Federation (CDPF).

The workshop, held at the Beijing Disabled Persons Activity Centre, aims to improve participants' communication skills through dance.

"Through the workshop's interactive process, we hope all participants will be imbued with creative communication methods and leadership," Samantha Grainger, acting director of the British Council Beijing, said.

The British Council initiated the Young Advocates Program to secure an international legacy to China's 2008 and the UK's 2012 Paralympic Games.

"The participants will have the confidence to express their ideas, explore their own potential and raise awareness of the Paralympic spirit of social inclusion within their communities," Grainger said.

Two dance artists and one musician from NBT's Learning and Access department will train students in basic ballet and other body movements.

NBT has an ongoing commitment to working with disabled people and a strong track record in doing so. It teaches participants to develop their physical and non-verbal communication abilities.

"Dance is the only art form to use non-verbal communication as its primary means of expression," Selina McGonagle, director of Learning and Access at NBT, said.

"We hope that the project will leave a legacy for dance in Beijing by equipping teachers and community leaders with the skills they need to deliver dance for people with and without disabilities in the future," McGonagle said.

Each day will begin at 9:30 am with a warm up. The warm-up exercises will progress throughout



Teachers from the NBT instruct disabled students in basic ballet movements. Photo provided by British Council

the week, taking into account the needs of individual participants.

Through the creative workshops, the participants, facilitated by the artists, will explore themes and ideas through movement. The sessions will ask participants to challenge themselves to create original movements based on tasks set by the dance artists. These ideas will be developed, refined and rehearsed, then structured by the dance artists to create the final piece.

The Young Advocates Program is aimed at building skills in a core group of young people, and through them, raising awareness of how sport can benefit the community.

Disabled dance workshop participants are expected to become Young Advocates and take on a volunteer leadership role in their community to promote Paralympic Spirit and inclusion of young people with disabilities in sport.

Spanish master-of-the-nude's photos exposed



By Gan Tian

As part of the official Year of Spain in China, the Spanish Embassy brought a selection of photographer Rafael Navarro's works to the Institute Cervantes of Beijing on Monday.

Navarro's exhibition, titled "Introspecciones," is composed of 47 select works in which the curator chose to convey his key themes: nudity and abstraction. "This series will allow Beijing audiences the most intimate and essential side of Navarro's work, as well as his personal and particular expression," curator Angelica Soleiman, said.

His "Tientos" series is his most personal and sensual work. It inspires viewers to observe and ask what daily motions inspired such sensations: the touch of a satin fabric against the skin or the desire of hiding more than showing.

In "El despertar," viewers can see the union between stone and the skin, the lifeless and the living, and his "Los siete signos" represents the paradigm of abstraction by repetition, present in some of the artist's other works.

The last part of the exhibition shows a selection of 20 "Diptychs": the series, represented by photographs, is the most innovative work of his career.

Soleiman said that although Navarro is famous in Spain, few locals know his work – one of the driving reasons behind bringing the exhibit here.

Navarro was born in Zaragoza in 1940. From his first series "Formas" in 1975 to his latest "El abandono," his work has retained a personal element making his name synonymous with master of the nude.



Rafael Navarro's work focuses on the nudity and abstraction.

Photos provided by the Institute Cervantes of Beijing

New approach to contain housing cost crisis

By Jackie Zhang

As real estate prices continue to skyrocket, the problem of how to help those in lower income brackets purchase a home has been exacerbated. Many of the city's residents continue to live in poor, dirty areas.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, professors, researchers and real estate professionals from both China and the UK met to hold a China-UK comparative study conference on Housing Provisions for Low-income Urban Residents.

In the UK, the government, together with volunteer groups, plays a critical role in aiding low-income residents to solve their housing problems. To encourage volunteer associations to communicate with government agencies, it has passed various legislation and ration housing-related grants, Nick Gallent, reader in Housing and Planning, Bartlett School of Planning, said.

In the UK, a "social mix" policy and new, sustainable communities are the two avenues the government has pursued to solve its housing problems.

Urban social mixing encourages people of all ages, economic backgrounds and lifestyles, as well as varying mobility and independence, to live together.

"Sustainable Communities are places where people want to live, now and in the future ... they improve quality of life for all whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations," Katie Williams, director of the Center for Environment and Planning, University of the West of England, said.

"Elements like a flourishing local economy to provide jobs and wealth, good public transport and other transport infrastructure both within the community and linking it to urban, rural and regional centers and a sense of place should all be included," she said.

To solve low-income urban residents' housing problems, social mixing is being explored in China. A survey conducted in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, by Professor Yu Wenbo from Zhejiang University of Technology and Professor Wang Zhu from Zhejiang University showed mixed communities are already in the city.

The Xinlixiang, new lanes, movement is another attempt in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, to improve the living environment of low-income urban residents.

In Guangzhou, many residents are from other provinces who rent out houses in crowded and dirty lanes. The layout of communities is disorderly. The Xinlixiang movement is designed to restore some order, improve sanitation and strengthen security.

"During the past two years, our project has developed far more quickly than we originally expected," Yan Wendou, initiator of the movement, said.

"Civilian power is the most valuable social resource. It can not only help improve social management, but also improve the whole living environment."

Beijing's pubs unveil independent flicks



Fifty selective independent movies from home and abroad screening in seven pubs this week.

Photos provided by Peter Salame

By He Jianwei

As many as 50 independent movies from home and abroad are being screened during the New Beijing International Movie Week from December 17 to 23 every night in seven Beijing pubs.

The Movie Week is organized by a group of people who are film producers or distributors. "Among the films, 13 are full-length, and the rest are shorts less than 45 minutes long," Peter Salame, one of the organizers said.

All the movies are divided into different groups according to their run time so that each night a variety of movies will be shown.

"If people come and say, 'Oh, I hated the first two movies but the third one was all right and the fourth one was great!' then we've accomplished something," Salame said.

He is aware that people have different tastes, so he is presenting an American-culture drama, an Indian-culture drama, a documentary about traditional Jewish music, and a Japanese-culture art comedy together on the same night.

In Salame's group, they don't like mainstream movies and opt for independent movies. They want the Chinese and expatriates to be exposed to the movies as well.

"There are thousands of independent movies made every year, all over the world, and perhaps hundreds of them have amazing, compelling, beautiful stories that can deeply affect people. They usually have no chance to get distributed; blocked by the big studios' money-making machines," he said.

In Salame's mind, almost all the most successful Hollywood movies are directed by or feature people who made it big doing incredible, yet rare, art movies at the beginning of their careers. Sometimes big studios will just buy an independent production outright and market it as the studios' own.

"What's important is that creativity, ideas, and experimentation are allowed to flourish. Sometimes the

results are unwatchable at first, but lead to later collaborations which merge the best of art and some positive aspects of commercial entertainment," Salame said.

He hopes that watching these independent movies will inspire people to make their own movies and tell their own stories. "In the future, the movies coming from new amateur directors in Beijing will influence culture worldwide," he said.

Salame's group previewed all the movies before they got them and made sure there were no technical problems, like bad audio. Then they sent on a copy of each movie to Chinese college students, industry professionals, professors and movie critics.

Chinese movies, especially by Beijing movie-makers get a certain preference. "But it's also impor-

tant for us to pick many movies that tell stories completely foreign to Chinese experience. From punk rock culture in Colombia, to the weird world of German art film, or a scathing commentary on tourism in Verona, we've got movies to teach audiences fun new facts," he said.

Next spring, Salame said they will run a series of Chinese independent movies alongside foreign ones for one week.

"There is a lot more going on behind the scenes, too, with distribution partnerships, advertising, and all things elemental coming together to make our New Beijing International Movie Week measure up to any other world capital's independent movie event," he said.

Children tackle human trafficking



A young rep talks about his fight against human trafficking.

Photo provided by Save the Children

By He Jianwei

Human trafficking is a nightmare for women and children. However, thousands of women and children in the area are abducted and sold each year in

the Great Mekong Sub-region.

Cambodia reported 110 cases of trafficking from January to November, and China reported 2,500 cases last year. These cases are closely associated with the wider issue of migration on the borders of the Great Mekong Sub-region, officials announced at the Greater Mekong Sub-region (COMMIT) Senior Officials Meeting in Beijing at the Asia Hotel last Thursday.

A youth representative from Mekong Youth Forum on Human Trafficking (MYF) presented the youth's priority recommendations to fight human trafficking.

"Before adults make the decision to solve the problem, they must hear our children's voices," You Fangkun, a young MYF participant in Save the Children's

2007 program, said.

You, 17, is a middle school student in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. He was elected to participate in the Regional Children Forum, and was once again elected as the only representative of children to participate in the COMMIT in December.

MYF, held earlier in September in Bangkok, is a week-long discussion of 30 selected children and young people from six countries of the Mekong sub-region on human trafficking and related issues.

The young MYF participants presented experiences and stories of trafficking from their own communities, districts, provinces, and countries to different countries in order to form one

common voice of the Mekong youth in the form of a set of recommendations to all Mekong governments.

"After I joined the forum, I knew human trafficking really exists in our lives. When I saw the little beggars or flower girls on the streets, I realized that trafficking is exploitation," he said.

Bringing voices from the grass-root levels, especially from those who are directly affected by the issues in policy discussions is very crucial.

As children and young people are among those affected by human trafficking, "it is only by involving them in anti-trafficking programs and policies that lasting positive changes can be achieved," he said.

Events

Lecture: the history of Tibetan Buddhism

Professor Wang Yao from the Central University of Nationalities will talk about the history of the dissemination of Tibetan Buddhism in central and eastern China. The lecture will be in Chinese.

Where: National Library, 33 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian

When: December 22, 9:30 am

Cost: 10 yuan and 5 yuan for students

Tel: 6612 6185

Art book events

Timezone 8 Books & Café holds bilingual book signings and author talks every second Saturday. Top curators, designers, artists and critics gather for about an hour for a book talk followed by an open forum discussion.

Where: Timezone 8, 798 Dashanzi, 4, Jiuxianqiu Lu, Chaoyang

When: December 22, 6 pm

Cost: free

Tel: 8456 0336

New Beijing International Movie Festival

With independent film screenings in Beijing occurring increasingly frequently, a few of the involved Chinese and foreign organizations have organized an event to assemble films under one banner to promote cross-cultural communication.

The New Beijing International Movie Festival runs Monday to Sunday this week, featuring unique Chinese and foreign films at a variety of venues shown to a diverse audience. Movies with Chinese dialogue will have English subtitles, and movies with English dialogue will have Chinese subtitles.

Where: Venues differ every night, please log on the website for details

When: December 22, 4 pm; December 23, 7 pm

Cost: 15-30 yuan

Tel: 13466765654

Website:

beijingfilmfest.org

Brave Father film at French center

The French Cultural Center will present a documentary next Monday. It recounts the embarrassing situation of many Chinese parents – a father who has sacrificed everything to send his son to a good university, but his son fails to find a good job after graduation. The film is in Chinese with French subtitles. After screening, the director will be available to answer questions.

Where: French Cultural Center, 16 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang

When: December 24, 5 pm

Cost: 20 yuan and 10 yuan for students

Tel: 6553 2627

(By Wei Ying)

Comment

By Jackie Zhang



It is a beautiful gymnasium but the spectators are too close to the players, so that we can't see the match clearly. In the US, we don't see table tennis competition of this caliber, because it is not so common in our country. I've been living in China for more than two years. I know the importance of table tennis in China and am happy to see a top-level competition.

Mary Nicole Nazzaro, US journalist



It is my first time to watch table tennis in a gymnasium. I used to watch it on TV, but it is more exciting to watch it live. I like the gymnasium. It is big and beautiful.

Julia Bindrich, Germany, chamber projects



I don't know much about table tennis. In Germany, I don't watch table tennis competitions very often. It is also my first time to watch the game live. The competition is fierce.

Bjoern Lindequist, Germany, project manager



I play table tennis myself in my spare time. When I was in Germany, I watched table tennis competitions live two or three times. Table tennis in China is popular and the Chinese players are very strong. I know there are German athletes this time taking part in the tournament. I hope they do well. I like the Chinese player Ma Lin very much. He plays quite well.

Raffael Kuepper, Germany, business administration management trainee

Photos by Jackie Zhang



Beijing University Gymnasium is the only specialized table tennis gymnasium in Olympic history.

Photo by Wu Changqin

First table-tennis gym opens

By Jackie Zhang

Being named "Chinese Ridge," the Beijing University Gymnasium was completed last month and is formally being used during the 2007 ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) Pro Tour Grand Finals held from last Thursday to this Wednesday. It is the only specialized table tennis gymnasium in Olympic Games history, and in the world.

The structure

The project construction covers 26,900 square meters, and the gymnasium consists of a table tennis gymnasium and a swimming hall. The table tennis gymnasium is on the first floor, 47 meters long and 40 meters wide. Eight ping pong tables are set up on the ground. In addition, unfixed chairs can be installed around the competition ground allowing two ping pong tables to be arranged for

competition during the finals. A total of 7,557 seats, including fixed and unfixed, can be provided during competitions.

The backdrop inside the gymnasium is designed to be as dark as possible, so athletes will not be influenced by light during competition; the wind speed inside is no more than 0.2 meters per second.

After the Good Luck Beijing event, the table tennis pre-finals of next year's Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games will be held here.

Overlooking the gymnasium roof, a crystal ball placed in the center is like a big ping pong ball embedded in the roof. The structure of the roof is complicated. Of all the Olympic venues, its structure is said to be one of the most complex.

The central crystal ball and the windows in the room guarantee natural light and ventila-

tion entering the gym. This will meet the needs of athletes practicing daily and university use after the Games.

Technologically equipped

The illumination control on the main competition ground, warm-up ground and swimming hall are all by intellectual illumination controls. The comprehensive automatic system in the electrical distribution rooms is connected with the building's automatic controlling system. The main electrical switches and transformers all can be controlled remotely.

Solar heating technology will provide heat for the swimming halls. And the heat and cool air in and around the 3,000 square meter room including the media and logistics rooms is all provided by terrestrial heat pumps.

Saving old remains and trees

The Beijing University Gym-

nasium is located on the east side of the Beijing University campus. Its construction avoided destroying the old Zhibeiziyuan and old trees on campus.

When the construction began last year, a set of siheyuan, Zhibeiziyuan, which was built during the Jiaqing period (1760-1820) of the Qing Dynasty, was close to the west side of the construction site surrounded by six old trees. In order to protect the cultural relic and the trees, the whole construction site moved to the east side.

Post Games use

After the Olympic Games, the gymnasium will be transformed into a comprehensive gym where table tennis, handball, basketball, badminton, volleyball and gymnastics competitions will be held. Students' professional training, physical exercise classes, meetings or performances will also be organized here.

Chinese athletes top in table tennis

By Jackie Zhang

Four gold medals of the 2007 ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) Pro Tour Grand Finals were all won by Chinese players.

Differing from other Good Luck Beijing events, the athletic level of the tournament this time is high. Only the top 16 players in the world were qualified to participate. The result of the competition relates directly to the players' qualification to participate in next year's Olympic Games.

There were 57 players from 15 countries and regions taking part in the tournament. Athletes from countries including Germany, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the US and Spain, all intended to see and play in the new gymnasium first in hopes they have a chance to join the Olympic Games next year.



Guo Yue (left) and Li Xiaoxia beat Hong Kong athletes

Photo by Liu Ying

Ma Lin, who won the men's single in the event and ranks first in the world at present, has an advantage in total scores due to his victory. The gold medalist of the women's single was Li Xiaoxia. It is the first championship she has won in a comparatively important international competition. Although

the score ended in a draw at the middle of the competition, she maintained her steady performance to win the gold.

The important foreign players did not perform well this time. Ryn Seung Min from South Korea lost in the first round to Chinese player Wang Hao. Boll Timo from Germany was defeated by Ma

Lin in the quarter final. Female athletes including Tie Yana from Hong Kong, Li Jiawei and Wang Yuegu from Singapore all lost to Chinese players.

"Both Chinese male and female players are currently at the top level in the world. We compete with them not to win, but to learn something from them." Li Jiawei said after the female quarter final last Saturday with Zhang Yining, a Chinese female player ranking fourth in the world.

Some of the athletes gave suggestions about stadium design and operation. "Almost all the big gymnasiums have a problem with bright light. It influences, more or less, a player's performance." Zhang Yining said, "Also, the spectator seats are too close to the players. It seems a little crowded in the gymnasium."

Love, language, the city

By Gan Tian

Elyse Ribbons, an American woman, and her Cheeky Monkey Theater will open the ShiFen Theater Festival in 798 District on January 19. The Festival, which focuses on pre-Olympic life in the city, is a collection of 10-minute plays by Beijing's top expat and some local theatrical groups. What are these stories behind the scene? *Beijing Today* describes these mini-plays from the perspective of Ribbons herself.

The Festival stages about eight to nine performances, most of which are in English, two or three in Chinese and one in Chinglish.

There are only 200 seats in the theater, and Ribbons is going to do one show on January 19 and it's totally free. Ribbons will film it and put it on YouTube and tudou.com. The story focuses on different episodes in the lives of foreigners and locals. Ribbons is currently still selecting the scripts and looking for some good actors.

"The actors and actresses are all my friends," she said, "sometimes they have friends interested and they bring them along, but I'm still looking for someone who is good." Ribbons is choosing actors with good theater skills to coach. They must have different backgrounds, as the scripts all focus on the conflicts between cultures and languages.

Chinglish

Defining Cheeky Monkey Theater as the only Chinglish theater in the world, Ribbons has her own interpretation of Chinglish – it never means solely the mistakes Chinese people make in English learning. It also includes the mistakes English-speaking persons make in Chinese learning.

"I should say, it is rather a combination of the two languages, rather than some mistakes. Nowadays, more and more people are learning another language. We all make mistakes," Ribbons said.

Sometimes, these flubs become so common that language has become a kind of culture. Most of them are so funny that Ribbons could not ignore them, so she gave them a stage.

The script of "Loveletters.com" was written by Ribbons. In the show, the leading role is a writer of love letters. "For example, I am a Canadian boy and I fall in love with a Chinese lady. Though I can write love letters, I cannot make them romantic," Ribbons explained. It is the same when a German boy loves a Russian girl ... so enters the love letter writer who makes many jokes doing his job.

Shifen

Shifen is a term which cannot be translated into perfect English but has a good meaning. First of all, literally, *shi* is ten, *fen* is minutes. Together they are "10 minutes," indicating that all the plays are about ten-minutes long. "We don't want to make each play a two-hour long show. We'll put the audience to sleep," Ribbons said. Ten minutes is just enough time to keep the audience awake and focused on the play.

In another translation, *shifen* is an adverb, which means "very" or "completely." For example, "*shifen youqu*" means "very funny." Though the theater is small, the plays will be professional from the players to the lighting. The ShiFen Theater Festival, which its name suggests, will surprise the audience with its interesting stories.

Cultural conflicts

Organizing a lot of people in the show is never an easy thing, but solving the cultural conflicts is a daunting task for the young director.

Once Ribbons directed a play with an elderly man in the leading role, and trouble started. "I asked him to stand here, but he refused. He said there was better way to do it. I said he should read the lines with anger, but he said the delivery should be sad," Ribbons said. She could not understand the problem, but later the light went on. The man was a Chinese, so in his mind, he was following a typical Chinese principle that women should listen to men, and the young should respect the old.

Later, Ribbons solved the problem by talking to the actor, saying that in a cast, the actors and actresses should listen to only one person, the director. "He finally understood and behaved well," she said.

But something worse happened. After Ribbons put on one show, she received many angry emails, complaining that she presented a poor image of Chinese women and mocked them. "Sometimes I think they are too sensitive. It was a comedy and I made fun of everybody in the script, American, Germans ... people should make fun of themselves, that is why life is funny."

The November 2006 show of *I Heart Beijing*, was performed at 798's HART Center for the Arts

Photos by Elyse Ribbons



in ten minutes



Elyse Ribbons preparing for a role in a movie as a Chinese bride for a TV series

City lover

Ribbons had such strong feelings towards "Chinglish" theater that she developed a deep understanding of the city where those jokes originated.

She arrived during the SARS in 2002. "I was not afraid at all, because I knew how to protect myself. As soon as I arrived, I knew I had made the right choice," Ribbons said.

During the first years after her arrival, she lived in a hutong, and then moved to Jianwai SOHO. She admitted that she loved both sides of Beijing – the traditional and the modern. Only in this mixed atmosphere, could one find so many interesting things happening. "Beijing is never dull," she said.

The cultural exposure was what attracted Ribbons. Different galleries in 798 Art District, concerts from all over the world, even the different accents throughout the whole country ... but she thought the city had a problem with pollution and traffic. "That's why I love Ritan Park, where everything is green."

The audience will see the city's image portrayed in the Shifen Theater Festival. They will see played out on stage people's lives during pre-Olympics time.

The 27-year-old woman has devoted her best years to this city. "The city is more like my lover. I have affection and hatred toward him. Sometimes I love him a lot but sometimes we have big fights. Every time I was on a plane to somewhere else, I would feel a little sad and realize I could not leave him. Whenever I flew back to Beijing, I felt like I was coming home," she said.

Reporter's note

When the city does not belong to you

When I walked into Elyse Ribbons' apartment in Jianwai SOHO, a white cat scurried underfoot. "Are you OK with cats?" Ribbons asked politely.

The morning sunshine filled the apartment. When she talked about her experiences in China, I could easily see how hardworking she was and how much she loved the city. "But I still don't have a green card and I still do not own a cultural communication of my own," she said.

Still she loves it here. "Every time I flew back to Beijing I felt like I was coming home," she looked out of the window as the sunshine made her hair more golden. Ribbons seems to enjoy her career and life. Now she is determined to live here for a long time and she already has a Chinese family.

Enjoy life. When the city does not belong to you, you must make yourself belong to the city.

Beijing's expat theatre groups

Beijing Playhouse

Beijing Playhouse is an English community theater.

Beijing Playhouse Executive Director Chris Verrill is a producer, director and actor with 40 stage, radio, television and film productions.

Website: beijingplayhouse.com
Email: performance@beijingplayhouse.com

Beijing Actors Workshop

Beijing Actors Workshop typically does structured improvisations and scripted scene work in English and Chinese, method acting, theater games and other exercises. It is all in a free-spirited and relaxed workshop environment and at little cost. It invites all actors, writers and directors – experienced or aspiring – to join its workshops on Wednesday evenings.

Website: bjactorsworkshop.googlepages.com
Email: bjactorsworkshop@gmail.com

Beijing Improv

There is a random group of artists who are committed to exercising their laugh muscles on a regular basis. They always offer new, free bilingual improvisational theater workshops. If you are interested and willing to take risks, or if you want to have fun, go and check it out.

When: 8 – 10 pm, every Wednesday

Where: Jiangjingjiu Bar (Xinjiang Music Bar), between the Drum and Bell Tower on the west side of the plaza, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8405 0124

Website: beijingimprov.com

Shifen Theater Festival details

Where: the Yan Club Art Center, 798 Dashanzi Art District, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm, January 19
Admission: Free



SHIFEN THEATER FESTIVAL

<http://www.cheekymonkeytheater.com/shifen.html>

Kitchen Asia gather together the gourmet food

好苑建国酒店
JIANGUO GARDEN HOTEL & BEIJING



RMB 138net/person

**= Lobster+Swimming Crab
+ Prawn+Steak+Teppan-Yaki
+ Beijing Roast Duck
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No. 17 Jianguomennei Avenue, Beijing
订餐电话 / TEL: 6528.6666 - 20105

盛宴—查尔斯顿 主题圣诞晚会



Merry Christmas

24th December, 2007 6:30 pm - 11:30 pm
Place: International Hall 2nd floor
Create the "Charleston" atmosphere of Christmas Eve.
Price: Adult:
Luxury: RMB2388(net)
Honor: RMB1988(net)
Children: RMB 1088(net) (under 1.4m high)
Price includes: welcome cocktail party, buffet dinner, soft drinks, Local red wine, and exciting performance show and lucky draw prizes to be won.
For Reservation: 6512 6688 EXT.1955



First overview of China's art scene

China Art Book

By He Jianwei

Chinese art has created a buzz in the international art world, the prices of domestic pieces have climbed to new heights in international auctions and international exhibitions piqued world curiosity about the artists and their works.

China Art Book: the 80 Most Renowned Chinese Artists (edited by Uta Grosenick and Caspar Schubbe, 669 pp, Dumont, 440 yuan, in Chinese, English and German), the first comprehensive overview of China's contemporary art scene, reviews 80 of the most important and influential artists working today and predicts the stars of tomorrow.

This first "Who's Who" introduces the most important artists in China today, including Cao Fei, Gu Dexin, Yang Fudong and Zhang Huan. It is an essential resource reflecting the rapidly growing international market for and interest in contemporary Chinese art.

One of the editors, Uta Grosenick, presented the book at Timezone 8 bookstore in Beijing last Saturday night.

Before editing this book, Grosenick made a comprehensive, objective and broad survey of contemporary artists. The editing team asked people familiar with Chinese contemporary art all over the world to finish this survey and name their favorite artists.

Last September, Grosenick visited some galleries and talked with Chinese artists before seeking out authors to write articles about the artists.

"We used curators and critics from China, Germany and the US as authors because we wanted to see different views about China's contemporary art," Grosenick said.

"We selected the [final 80] artists from an objective criteria, considering the marketability of their works, how many exhibitions they have held, where they have been shown and what publications covered their exhibitions," she said.

The book's designer is a food packaging designer from Sweden. "We want to make our book look tasteful," she said.

Previous books about contemporary Chinese art just gave a glimpse of the artists' works during a certain period. "In this book, we attempt to summarize the whole artistic life of the artist and will give more information for in-depth future research," Carol Lu, one of the authors and an independent critic from China, said.

About the editors

Uta Grosenick is an art historian and former exhibitions organizer. She is the editor and co-editor of many books, including *Art at the Turn of the Millennium* (1999), *Art Now* (2001), *Women Artists in the 20th and 21st Century* (2001), *Art Now Vol. 2* (2005) and *International Art Galleries: Post-war to Post-millennium* (2005). Caspar Schubbe studied law and art history, and now works as a business developer and financier. He is the founder of a sculpture park and museum in Switzerland.



CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following children's books for *Beijing Today* readers.

My Daddy Is a Giant

By Carl Norac, illustrated by Ingrid Godon, 32 pp, Macmillan Children's Books, 60 yuan

Daddy looms large both figuratively and literally in Norac's (*I Love You So Much*) ode to a father from a child's perspective. In Godon's (*One Beautiful Baby*) full-bleed spreads, father and child appear against a background of solid color, with clothing changes and one or two props – a scooter, a bench, falling leaves – indicating multiple venues and seasons. In the opening illustration, the child clings to his father's back and both face readers, smiling.

Ruby Flew Too!

By Jonathan Emmett, illustrated by Rebecca Harry, 26 pp, Campbell Books, 75 yuan

Mother and Father Duck have five eggs in their nest and each is special. Father Duck is worried about Ruby, as she is slow to hatch and the last to eat and swim. However, Mother Duck knows that Ruby will flourish in her own time, and sure enough, when her turn comes to fly, she is the strongest and steadiest little duck in the sky.

My Name Is Mr Fox

By Shen Roddie, illustrated by Henning Lohlein, 32 pp, Macmillan Children's Books, 60 yuan

It's the night of the hens' fancy dress ball, and Mr Fox has a cunning plan. Will the hens work out his true identity before they become chicken pie?

CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District

Open: 8:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By He Jianwei)

Expert expat brings food experience to the table

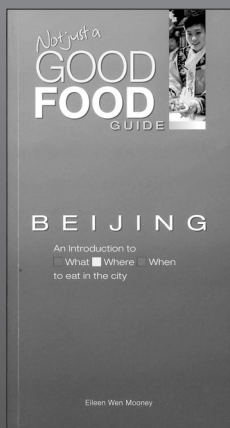
By Annie Wei

Born in Bali, Indonesia, Eileen Wen Mooney, a 12-year expat Beijing resident, recently published her *Not Just a Good Food Guide Beijing* (216 pp, Marshall Cavendish, US \$10.50), an introduction to what, where and when to eat in the city.

As the writer of the food sections for local English publications like *Fodor's Beijing*, *Time Out Beijing* and *Beijing Walks*, she explores the city each week in search of interesting new and old restaurants.

The book aims to help travelers unfamiliar with local language and cuisine. It starts out with an overview of the eating habits and customs in the region or county, and then includes a short list to explain which local dish is most authentic – picture included. The food entry ends with a list of which restaurants get the authentic seal of approval.

What makes this book different from other city food guides is that it highlights restaurants that remain "faithful to their own cuisine," Mooney said. "There are too many restaurants today that mix Chinese food from different ends of the country. It's difficult to find a restaurant that doesn't have Sichuan dishes on its



menu," she said.

She recalled what she experienced recently in a Shanghai restaurant, which did not have many Shanghai dishes on its menu. The manager said it was because Beijing people did not like Shanghai food, and they had to add other dishes to the menu.

Some places offer three different types of cuisine. It's hard to do one type of cooking well, let alone two or three. As a result, standards have fallen, Mooney said.

She also noticed another problem that many new restaurants spent a lot of money on decorations but fail to get the food right.

"I often hear friends say such and such a restaurant is excellent, but in reality, they're only impressed by the décor," Mooney said.

This food guide is very handy and practical, but whether the author's recommended restaurants will exist for another year or two is hard to say. China is changing so fast.

Mooney said they would call each restaurant to verify all the details for each future edition. "More importantly, we will keep going back to try the restaurants in this book to make sure they maintain their standards," she said.



New wave from Japan leaves ladies 'dry'



15
Trend

By Yu Shanshan

Chinese has a saying: women are made of water. Women believe that love is the best make-up. With those two facts in mind, it is possible to unravel the current "dried fish women" phenomenon.

The "dried fish women" wave from Japan now is rushing into China, and young office ladies who shun the party girl lifestyle and boyfriends for nights at home are all proudly announcing they are "dried fish women."

Women living the dried fish lifestyle were first popularized in the Japanese TV drama series *Hotaru no Hikari*, or *Light of the Fireflies* in English. The heroine in it is called "Homono-onna," literally translated as "dried fish woman."

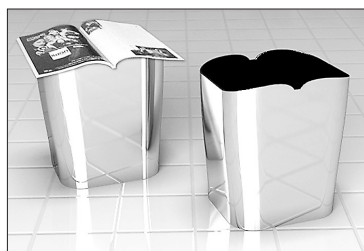
The drama presents a series of features to illustrate the image of a typical "dried fish woman." You can check yourself with the list provided below. The more questions you answer "Yes" to, the drier you are.



d



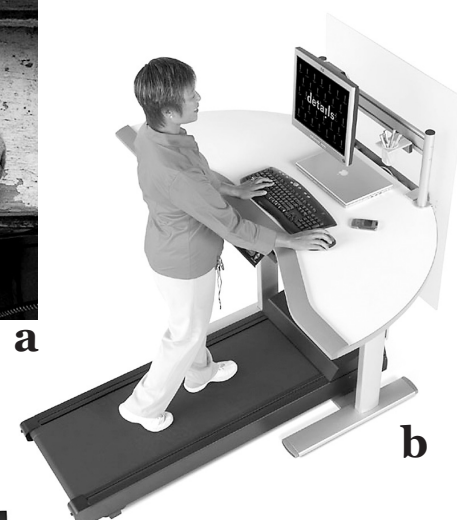
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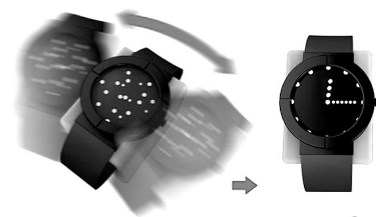
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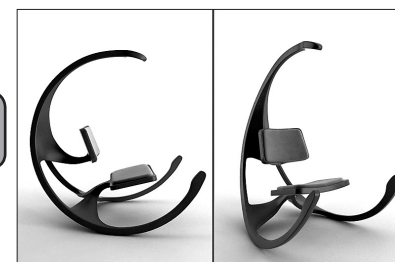
a



b



c



f

Ways to keep shut-in dried fish women in shape

a. With felt circuits and sustainable musical goodness, this USB-powered felt calculator can be squeezed to make noise.

b. The walkstation is a fully-integrated combination of an electric height-adjustable work surface with an exclusively-engineered, low speed, commercial grade treadmill. It is designed to bring healthy habits to sedentary workers while working.

c. The white round dots run randomly around this TIWE watch, but when you want to know the time, just give it a shake or tap the glass.

d. Kleber Puchaski's Hydrosphere is a small greenhouse solution for growing

fresh herbs for salads.

e. Snowtone's wastebasket can be sealed by an ordinary magazine. It is useful for people who like to read on the throne.

f. The Rocking Wheel chair, by Mathias Koehler, keeps rocking, even with the lights on.

g. Please don't be afraid of staining this. After meals, make a special splatter piece out of "today's special."



How dry are you? A self-examination:

1. Single but refuses to date.
2. Sometimes tires of school and work; wants to escape but does not dare to.
3. Wants a laid-back lifestyle; keeps an unstable schedule.
4. Seldom leaves home; if invited by friends, it takes time to decide whether or not to go.
5. Is frightened of strangers.
6. Manifests double personalities: the online persona is different from the flesh-and-blood one.
7. Is plain, ordinary, even cool on the outside, but lively and hot on the inside.
8. Can't live without computers; stays online even if there is nothing to do.
9. Likes writing blogs or diaries, especially online.
10. Is obsessed with or addicted to something like animated films, celebrities or model cars.
11. Puts on a smart mask and dress in the professional field, but prefers loose, comfortable clothes at home, even if unstylish and mismatched; goes braless or without makeup when possible.
12. Hasn't been to a hairdresser for at least half-a-year and doesn't care.
13. Casually eats in the kitchen, calls in carry-out or dines out alone.
14. Prefers reading manga at home, and spends weekends lazing in bed.
15. Has renounced the pursuit of romance.

Dining out with Saint Nick

By Gan Tian

No matter where on Earth you are, it's hard to miss that one of the big holidays of the year is just around the corner: Christmas!

But this year, Christmas is on a Monday, which rules out cooking at home. This week, Beijing Today has scoured the town for a few restaurants that would make ideal sites for your holiday meal.



Photo provided by the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing

Celebrating the season in chocoholic style

Hot cocoa isn't out of place here

By Gan Tian

The Christmas holiday doesn't have to involve green trees, red hats and decking the halls. At Westin Beijing Financial Street, this Christmas will be brown: which is certainly better than mauve.

To celebrate the season, the Westin is hosting a chocolate-themed wonderland. Festivities include an impressive international seafood buffet with traditional Christmas trimmings and free-flowing champagne, wine, beer, soft drinks and chilled juice.

Each ticket to the party includes entry in a drawing to win delicious, or as their PR person said, "chocolicious," desserts to indulge in and enjoy.

The celebration runs from 6:30 to 11 pm, and will feature a one-night live performance from a few select world-class entertainers.

Admission for children 12 and under is 988 yuan. All other general admission tickets are 1,988 yuan. Premium seats are priced at 1,088 yuan for children 12 and under and 2,288 yuan for adults.

Meals include a mouth-watering chocolate liqueur dessert.

The Westin Beijing Financial Street

Where: 9B, Financial Street, Xicheng District

Tel: 6606 8866

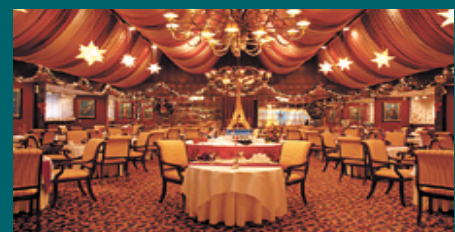
Deli & Ginger Bread House of the Jianguo Hotel Beijing



Deli & ginger bread have been made ideal festival give-out gifts for your loved ones. Jianguo's Deli & Ginger Bread House has prepared classical Christmas basket, traditional deserts, ginger bread, dainty chocolate and Christmas turkey.

For more information or reservation, please call 65002233 ext. 8192, or 65958092

Parisian Christmas Eve in Justine's of the Jianguo Hotel Beijing



Since its opened in 1982, the famous French restaurant Justine's of the Jianguo Hotel Beijing is about to embrace the Christmas again. On Parisian Christmas Eve, you are cordially invited to pamper yourselves in romantic French candle light feast.

Set Dinner Price: 1980 yuan per person, 3680 yuan for two persons, 4680 yuan for three persons.

All the above rates are including free flow of champagne, red wine, white wine, local soft drink and beer.

Every guest can participate in the final lucky draw of the hotel. In addition, by presenting the ticket of the Christmas Party, you can get one special gift.

For more information or reservation, please call 6500 2233 ext 8192, or 6595 8092

Eastern Mix Western Christmas Night all in The Jianguo Hotel Beijing



Christmas, a legacy of western festival, has become ever popular, and many expatriates have chosen to spend this traditional holiday in Beijing. Jianguo's Tianxiayipin Shang Court Chinese restaurant will provide a variety of Christmas set menu exclusively. When Eastern meets Western, you will experience a unique Christmas. No exception that you will also be welcomed to the Christmas Eve Celebration Event.

Price: 1580 yuan per person

VIP: 1280 yuan per person

All the above rates are including free flow of red wine, white wine, local soft drink and beer.

Price for children under 12-year-old: 688 yuan per person

Every guest can participate in the final lucky draw of the hotel. In addition, by presenting the ticket of the Christmas Party, you can get one special gift.

For more information or reservation, please call 65002233 ext. 8192, or 65958092

Heat up your holidays

With a Sichuan-style Christmas party!

By Gan Tian

While the Great Wall Hotel's champagne buffet and cocktails may seem like the traditional club Christmas party, the hosts decided to spice up the night with special Sichuan set-menus for Christmas. After all, what is red and green but peppers?

The restaurant, on the 21st floor, offers a panoramic view of the capital. The evening's dishes will include "festive" Cantonese and Sichuan food.

The first dish is *shuizhuyu* (spicy boiled fish), which will light up your mouth with prickly ash and peppers, followed by the even spicier *maoxuewang*, a dish of boiled, curdled blood with spicy sauce, and some nutritious vegetables. When you are done with dinner, put out the fire with a dessert

of Cantonese sweet cakes. So what about this Sichuan and Cantonese-soaked atmosphere says that it's Christmas? A visit by Santa for the children.

They have different prices depending on how each dish is prepared. The most expensive options may cost 688 yuan per person, and cheaper ones may save 200 yuan. Children aged three to nine can score a 50 percent discount.

Eating Sichuan cuisine in a Christmas setting may seem as awkward as eating moon cakes on Thanksgiving Day, but it may be worth a look for a unique experience.

The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing

Where: 10, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6590 5566 ext 2295



Photo provided by the Westin Beijing Financial Street

Continued to page 17...

... continued from page 16



Photo provided by Agrilandia Italian Farm

Direct from the heart of Italy**Something between noble and ordinary**

By Gan Tian

The Agrilandia Italian Farm is a bit of a hike from the capital's downtown, but it offers a chance to enjoy a countryside view and a special Christmas Package feast.

The 1,999-yuan ticket price is only available for the first 16 bookings, and includes a bottle of Italian sparkling wine Gavioli Prosecco. The first dish will be Warmed Veal Fillet Carpaccio, served with asparagus and Parmesan cheese. The cheese flavor mixes with the fillet for a fishy, sour flavor, but even if that isn't your thing, you will love the Dublin Bay Prawns Scampi Creme Brulle Pudding, served with marinated spicy tomato juice.

Linguine pasta, a typical Italian food, is served with garlic and red hot chili peppers, extra virgin olive oil and stock fish

fillet. Don't miss the traditional Christmas Genoese sweet bread and Milanese panettone: full of ice cream and chocolate sauce!

Italian Christmas food is something between noble and ordinary. One of my Italian friend said he was poor, so their dinner was tuna mixed with macaroni.

Stay at the Agrilandia Italian Farm overnight and enjoy Italian hospitality with a Christmas brunch the next day. The brunch costs 300 yuan for adults and 150 yuan for kids, and includes a salad of cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots and peppers, as well as Buffalo Mazzarella Caprese, Roasted Veal with Tuna Fish, Roasted Aubergines and Peppers as the appetizers.

Agrilandia Italian Farm

Where: Baigezhuang, Mapozhen, Shunyi District

Tel: 6940 7801, 6940 8845

Parisian party for the season**Santa Claus speaks luxury**

Photo provided by the Sofitel Wanda Beijing

By Gan Tian

The Sofitel Wanda Beijing is ratcheting things up a notch – and maybe an income bracket – with its seasonal party. To celebrate its newly-opened restaurants and bars, the Sofitel will host a range of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve parties guaranteed to make you merry.

Try the foie gras, seafood and shellfish or smoked salmon to kick in your taste buds before moving on to a main course of turkey, capon and goose. Gar-

nish depends on the recipe, usually chestnuts, potatoes or rice. Of all the dishes, turkey stuffed with chestnuts has the most mouth-watering flavor.

Since this is a French-style Christmas dinner, you are expected to select a different wine for each course. Traditionally, white wine goes with seafood and red wine with meat and cheese, but such rules are hardly written in stone, and you can find a suitable white wine to go with each course. Have champagne with your appetizer, with your main course or just have "Diner au Champagne" and drink it all night long.

This luxurious Christmas celebration costs 2,888 yuan per person.

Le Pre Lenotre

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, C, Wanda Plaza, 93, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8599 6666

If you value atmosphere over aroma

Try your luck with a Tibetan theme

By Gan Tian

The seat of the world might seem like a great place to spend Christmas, but for anyone who can't make the hike, try a Tibetan-themed Christmas in town at the Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong.

Fully decorated in Tibetan style, the hotel's huge banquet hall will be magically turned into a sparkling and mythical wonderland with a colossal image of the Potala Palace, colorful flags with Tibetan design, ox horns and other handicrafts.

Don't get caught up in the imagery and forget why you are here: dinner!

Chang Fu Gong serves a fairly common buffet, and it's only special seasonal dish is a Japanese-style one. You can enjoy sushi with Chinese rice or Western toasted meat. What gives the night a Christmas feel is the fancy gifts from Santa Claus, and the children's choir that will perform for the evening.

This year's Christmas party offers new shows and witty games. All guests will receive a special gift and a chance to try their luck in the sweepstakes.

Of course, tickets to Tibet aren't for the thrifty, and attending this party is equally able to hurt your pocketbook. Admission costs 1,888 yuan per person and 2,008 yuan for VIP seating. Children under 130 centimeters can have a discounted price of 988-yuan price.

Beijing New Otani Chang Fu Gong

Where: 26, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6512 5555, 5877 5555



Photos provided by Chang Fu Gong

Fairytale Romance & Christmas Extravaganza 2007 @ Days Hotel & Suites Beijing

Romantic Silent Night

Spend a romantic night with Christmas Set Dinner and lucky draws. Taste Christmas drinks while entertained by live band music.

Where: A+A Club

When: December 24, 6:30 pm – 1 am next day

Set Ticket: 1,388 yuan net, for two persons with a one night's stay in a Superior Room.

Additional benefits per set ticket: 688 yuan net for third person; or 288 yuan net for a child between 3 and 12.

Fairytale Christmas Gala Night

Lavish buffet, entertainment shows, fun

games and lucky draws. Fabulous prizes feature Outbound Travel for two persons, Portable Computer, LCD TV and Cell Phone.

Where: Regal Palace Theatre Restaurant

When: 6:30 pm – midnight, December 24

Ticket: 1,288 yuan net for an adult; 688 yuan net for a child between 3 and 12.

Ginger Bread House

Where: Lobby

When: December 1 - 25

Tel: 6773 1234 ext 3930 or 8778 9888 ext 222



Cheaper deals online

By Annie Wei

For girls who love fashion but have little money, to compare pricing at various retail channels is valuable homework. Embarrassed by your cheap clothes? Many big brand outlets have a dark secret: they get their clothes from Hong Kong and shamelessly tag them as "imported directly from Europe." Plus, they are just seasonal.



Tsumori-Chisato

Founder Tsumori Chisato used to be Issey Miyaki's assistant for the brand Issey Sports. In 1990, she came out with her own brand and was favored by young girls for her floral prints, geometric patterns and detailed designs. Although the brand has not entered the Chinese mainland market yet, it is very popular in Hong Kong.

This winter coat is very unique and looks so cute, like a puffy snowman. The surface also feels great with extremely adorable painted patterns.

In a mixed-brand collection store, opposite Vivian Tam's on the ground floor of the World Trade Center (Guo Mao), the staff said the interior material was goose down and was light and warm. The price is not cheap: 9,800 yuan. However, you can find the same article on taobao.com for 465 yuan.



Missoni floral print coat

Actually, a tour of the shopping mall is more like surfing taobao.com. I have to wonder: how many shop owners get their products from online auction?

At least 30 percent of the silk dresses bearing tags like Laundry, BCBG or MaxMara are identical to the website's. Take the Missoni floral print coat, for example, it is 355 yuan on taobao.com. At one of these shops, it costs 1,000 yuan after discount!



Marc Jacobs/Marni

Although reviews of Marc Jacob's latest fashion show are negative, it's still a top brand and popular in well-off crowds. A simple summer top can cost up to 3,000 yuan at their outlet. The good news is that you can find many Marc Jacobs look-alikes at random and small fashion boutiques, and you can get even cheaper prices from taobao.com.

Generally, a silk dress with a Marc Jacob tag costs 300 yuan, 500 or higher for a wool dress and around 230 yuan for simple summer cotton clothes. Marni has the same price range as Marc Jacobs on taobao.com.



Cell phone charge cards

It is windy, dirty and cold outside. You sit in the office, saying to yourself not to forget to get some cell phone charge cards on the way home. Why not try this. Sellers on taobao.com will charge your phone at a cheaper price after you transfer your money to their bank account. For a 100-yuan card, they charge from 92 to 97 yuan.

Fancl Deluxe Tense Up

The average revenue of each Fancl counter in China is about 500,000 yuan per month. Its star product, "Fancl Deluxe Tense Up," is very popular with women who are concerned about age-related protein loss. But the product does not come cheap. A bottle a day will cost you 900 yuan per month. Although most people think buying things that you put into your body online is dangerous, some don't. Meng Ying, 29, said she did most of her shopping online, including buying Fancl.

Meng said most Fancl sold online is direct from Japan, and the product has more ingredients than what you can buy in a shopping mall. What's more important, "It's one-third cheaper," Meng said. She spent 630 yuan for 30 bottles.



Cheap shopping tips

1 If you see a piece of clothing you like on taobao.com, do not rush into a purchase. See if you can find the same article at places like Yashou, 3.3 shopping mall, or Guomao.

2 Copy down the name of the online product and comparison shop to see if a store sells it at a cheaper price. Experienced shoppers suggest not settling for cheap merchandise for it is usually bad quality.

3 Almost every seller on taobao.com offers a cell phone number. Sellers prefer answering questions online. If you practice speaking Chinese with local vendors, here's your chance to improve your Chinese writing skills with taobao.com sellers.

4 Although most products on this site claim to be *yikoujia* (non-negotiable), you can still try. Use bargaining tactics similar to those you use at Yashou.



5 Deal with sellers who have good reviews. New sellers normally offer better service and quality to earn good reviews.

A good waist of time



Photo by Wang Ying

Is your body the shape of an apple or pear? Are you carrying extra weight around your mid-section? What are the risks associated with extra belly fat and are there any special exercises or diets to help reduce the bulge? Research indicates that an apple shape or excess mid-drift fat is a health risk. There's no magic solution to losing it. You simply need to eat less or exercise more, or both, to achieve and maintain a healthy waist.

What's better – an apple or pear shape?

Being the shape of a pear is better for your health than being apple shaped. Pear-shaped people, usually women, carry more of their extra weight around their hips, thighs and buttocks. Apple-shaped people typically carry extra weight around their middles and have large bellies. Being apple-shaped is associated with increased risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers. Greater belly fat is also linked to high blood cholesterol, hypertension, gall bladder disease and sleep apnea.

How can you tell if you have a healthy waist?

The most commonly used method for classifying an individual as overweight or obese is the BMI (Body Mass Index), which is based on body weight and height. BMI may be calculated using mass in kilograms over height in meters squared. However, the index reading has limitations and can lead to the misclassification of certain individuals such as those with increased muscle mass or the elderly. Waist circumference may be a better indicator of health risk than BMI alone, especially when used in combination with BMI. Waist circumfer-

ence is particularly useful for individuals with a BMI of 25-34.9. For individuals with a BMI more than 35, waist circumference adds little predictive power on the disease risk classification of BMI. In addition, the index is not as useful for individuals who are muscular, people who are naturally lean, and adults who are over 65 years of age. The best way to tell if your health is at risk is to measure your waist. These measurements are easy to do and may be a better indicator of your health risk.

Healthy Waist Guidelines

In men, a waist measurement of 102 centimeters (40 inches) or greater increases risk of developing health problems. In women, a waist measurement of 88 centimeters (35 inches) or more increases risk. However, lower thresholds for waist circumference have been recommended for Asian populations by the World Health Organization due to recent research findings. Therefore, those at increased risk for developing chronic disease include: Asian men with a waist circumference of more than 88 centimeters (35 inches) and Asian women with a waist circumference of more than 79 cm (31 inches).

How to measure your waist

- You can take your waist measurement yourself or ask someone to help you.
- Stand up straight. Remove clothing from around your waist.
- Wrap a tape measure around your waist – half way between your hip bone and lowest rib.
- Make sure the tape measure is level all around and hold firmly, but don't press into the skin.
- Take a deep breath, exhale and measure.
- Compare your results to the healthy waist guidelines.

Are there any exercises you can do to achieve a healthy waist?

Contrary to popular belief, there are no specific exercises to "spot" reduce belly fat. Research shows that regular physical activity can help reduce abdominal fat, even without weight loss. You can monitor your progress as you become more active by keeping track of your waist measurement. To achieve a healthy waist, aim for 30 to 60 minutes of moderate intensity activity each day. Try brisk walking, cycling, dancing and other weight bearing activities. You can also try adding some weights to your exercise regimen twice a week. The easiest way to become more active is to work it into

your regular routine. Walking more each day in usual activities instead of taking the car is a great way to start.

Is there a special diet to help you lose belly fat?

To achieve a healthy waist, you need to keep active and eat well, but there is no special diet. It's best to follow "Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide": control how much you eat and limit your intake of foods and beverages that are low in nutrients and high in calories, fat and sugar. You may need to shy away from some high fat snacks, such as chips, cookies or doughnuts in favor of more nutritious vegetables and fruit. You may also benefit from cutting back on sugary beverages and alcohol and start drinking more water.

The bottom waist line!

As you get older it is harder to maintain a healthy waist unless you keep active. Your body also needs fewer calories as you age, so eating more food than you really need contributes to weight gain and mid-drift bulge. You need to burn more calories by exercising more or eating less food. It's as simple as that!

(By Li Fenghua)

Phuket Island may be a heavenly retreat, but face the facts: these days, heaven is a little crowded. There are other tranquil paradises out there, but they require a bit more traveling. Now is the time to explore the remote islands at world's end before they become the next Phuket.



Beat the crowds to these peaceful island paradises

Koh Yao Islands, Thailand

Koh Yao Islands is a pair of large islands in the middle of Phang Nga Bay, namely Koh Naka Yai and Naka Noi. The islands are equidistant to Phuket and the Krabi mainland. While the pace of development is accelerating on Koh Yao Noi in particular, the islands remain a quiet refuge that feels far removed from the crowds of Phuket.

Koh Yao Noi gained worldwide attention after receiving the World Legacy Award for Destination Stewardship in 2002 for its eco-friendly homestay programs offered by local residents.

The island is mostly free of stunning landmarks, but driving around, it is easy to see how little it has changed in the past 20 years, aside from a few new motorbikes and the addition of a 7-Eleven shop.

A road, mostly paved concrete, circles the island, which makes driving around fairly easy.

Wooden houses stand along the road, and water buffaloes bathe in nearby rice paddies. The cool, shaded road passes through many rubber plantations and mangroves, only a few of the peaceful island's natural charms.

Stop anywhere along the way to visit a rubber plantation or a fish farm along the road. Agricultural demonstra-

tions are available there showing a glimpse of a lifestyle different from that of the mainland, where computers and machines have taken control.

The leisurely atmosphere on the island is attractive: time slows down and nothing seems to pressure the inhabitants who enjoy chatting in small groups or lounging in afternoons in hammocks.

Many visitors will enjoy a few nights on Koh Yao. There are about half a dozen bungalows and resorts on Yao Noi where you can enjoy the island's prize-winning "homestay" program.

The islands are free of any banking facilities, but do include Internet service, restaurants and some shops, including a brand new 7-Eleven. So if you plan to stay over, remember to withdraw cash before you go, though you will hardly have an opportunity to spend it!

Getting there

Take a flight to Phuket Island. From the airport, a taxi will take you to the Bang Rong Pier on the east coast of Phuket in 25 minutes, where longtail boat ferries make daily trips to Yao Noi at 9:30 am, noon and 5 pm.



Driving through tranquil villages is a pleasant experience.



The island offers a peaceful beach.

Photos provided by flickr.com



Beat the crowds and get closer to heaven on Lankayan Island.

Lankayan Island, Malaysia

Lankayan Island, a tiny island in the Sulu Sea, is an hour-and-a-half north of Sandakan by boat. Unpopulated and covered by thick, tropical vegetation, this peaceful, untouched island is ringed by an endless beach of pure, white sand.

The island, an ideal destination for those in search of tranquility and relaxation in a natural setting, is becoming one of the hottest diving destination on the map today.

Its dive sites – all just a few minutes walk from accommodations – boast unbelievably colorful macro, fauna, fascinating wrecks and, from March to May, regular sightings of gigantic and harmless whale sharks: a "dream date" for divers the world over.

For those inclined to view the reef's smaller denizens, there are numerous juvenile fish, clown anemones, decorator and spider crabs, coral shrimps, nudibranchs, prawn gobies and rarer species such as jawfish, ornate ghost pipefish and frogfish.

Situated within the Sea Turtle Corridor, Lankayan Island is also a nesting place and foraging ground for sea turtles, especially the Green Turtle and Hawksbill Turtle. Guests may have a chance to see turtles nesting, and see new turtle hatchlings head for the sea, especially in the June to September months.

Despite its remoteness, the island offers elegant and exquisite accommodations, chalets and bungalows. Made out of local wooden materials to blend into the natural surroundings, chalets and standard rooms are attached with a private balcony overlooking the white, sandy beach and turquoise-colored ocean. Chalets are equipped with hot baths, coffee and tea making facilities, a mini-refrigerator and fresh water from the mainland.

Getting There

Take a flight to Sandakan, a departing point for speedboat bound for Lankayan Island. The trip takes about an hour and a half.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Photo provided by impression.com

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued from page 20



Coconut palms line the beach.

Photos provided by Pbase.com

Ngapali, Myanmar

Do you prefer trips with a bit more peace and tranquility, somewhere far from the madding crowds? Urban overpopulation brings its own kinds of stresses and strains, and sometimes getting back to nature is just what the doctor ordered.

One of the finest seaside resorts in Myanmar is Ngapali Beach,

about 45 minutes from Yangon, the country's capital. Lined with miles of pure, powdery white sand, tourists visit this town to swim, surf and snorkel in the Indian Ocean, or to relax under the palm trees. Visitors can also visit small fishing villages and local markets, explore the countryside by bicycle or take a boat trip to offshore islands.

Unlike today's beaches, Ngapali is free of noisy beachside bars, crowds and hawkers. There is only the natural beauty of the cobalt blue sea and the lovely sun.

Exploring the range of hills behind the Ngapali Beach Hotel should be part of anyone's travel itinerary. The hills hide a peaceful, blue, reservoir lake, where fish-

ing, but not swimming, is allowed. During winter, the lake is the haunt of migrant water fowl, wild ducks and teal down from the far north.

Ponies are available beachside rides, and motorized fishing boats can be rented for coastal exploration. Still, the best and cheapest way to get around the resort town is on bicycle.

Ngapali has an international 18-hole golf course. The beach hotel has 44 single-story bungalows. There are also three modern two-story buildings.

Getting there

Ngapali is accessible by a 45-minute flight from Yangon, or a 14-hour drive along the Rakhine Yoma mountain range.

Perhentian, Malaysia

The two Perhentian Islands are rated as some of the most beautiful in the world. They are also a virtual paradise for snorkelers and divers or anyone looking to laze about white sandy beaches waiting for the occasional coconut to fall.

Turtles, sharks, coral and thousands of tropical fish are visible along the beach. The interior is covered by jungle with a wide variety of species. The interior is home to land-dwellers such as monitor lizards, monkeys, geckos, flying squirrels and butterflies. There are no roads and few paths, so the islands are mainly peaceful and untouched.

At present, tourism is relatively new to the area: many of the rooms to accommodate guests have only appeared in the last five years. Accommodations only come up short during public holidays, long weekends, and the July - August boom season. Booking a room beforehand is necessary.

Perhentian Besar is the bigger of the two islands. Accommodations are distributed over three beaches. The Teluk Pauh at the north, in front of the Perhentian Island Resort, is the main beach with the most resorts. Teluk Dalam is on the island's south-east coast.

The best beach on either

island is Teluk Pauh, a beautiful half-moon bay with white powdery sand and water as clear as in a swimming pool. The beach is sided by beautiful coral, and it is a great place to snorkel with turtles, black tip reef sharks and hundreds of reef fish. At the west end of the bay is a wooden footbridge which leads over a few rocks to Coral View Island Resort's small beach, made almost exclusively of broken coral.

Teluk Dalam is a beautiful, wide, curved bay with a white fine sandy beach. The water is quite shallow, and the coral mostly destroyed.

On Perhentian Kecil, you can

find the only village, Kampung Pasir Hantu, a cluster of wooden houses with a police station, school, clinic and mosque.

Accommodations on Kecil are more distributed than on Besar. The best and most popular beach is Pasir Panjang, which provides dazzling, white sand and crystal-clear shallow water. The back of the beach is now almost completely covered with chalets, restaurants and cafes: don't expect a peaceful, deserted beach.

Nevertheless it is still a fantastic beach, even if it is now anything but unexplored. The atmosphere is geared to the young and adventurous. Hang out in

one of the many cafes, play beach volleyball, dive or relax.

Getting there

To get to Perhentian Island, the only route is by sea. Hire boat services from Kuala Besut, a little fishing village on the east coast of the Malaysian peninsula.

Journey to the islands takes about 30 to 45 minutes by speed boat and an hour and a half by common boat. There are many captains in Kuala Besut offering boat services.

To get to Kuala Besut, you can take either a bus or taxi from Kuala Terengganu or Kota Bharu. Both cities can be reached by plane.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Christmas Eve Concerto Co-performance by Grand Metropark Hotel and YOU

Another busy year is about to pass, and the tune of Jingle Bells in the air heralds the arrival of Christmas. A romantic and joyful party is prepared, and YOU are the enthusiastic guest we are waiting for!

This Christmas Eve, the Grand Metropark Hotel will entertain you with a chorus of little angels, a variety of performances, an aura of Christmas, a smiling Santa Claus to hand out candies and an exciting lucky draw.

It's an evening not to be missed!

December 24, 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Hotline: 8352 9999-8331

Address: Southeastern Corner of the Guanganmen Crossover, Xuanwu District, Beijing



A wood hut near the beach is a great place to have a drink, rest or chat with friends.

Good Night. And Good Luck

(2005)

Synopsis:

This film takes place during the early days of broadcast journalism in 1950's America. It chronicles the real-life conflict between television newsman Edward R. Murrow and Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House On Un-American Activities Committee. With a desire to report the facts and enlighten the public, Murrow, and his dedicated staff – headed by his producer Fred Friendly and Joe Wershba in the CBS newsroom – defy corporate and sponsorship pressures to examine the lies and scaremongering tactics perpetrated by McCarthy during his communist “witch-hunts.” In this climate of fear and reprisal, the CBS crew carries on and their tenacity proves historic and monumental.

Scene 1: Chicago Theater

(October 15, 1958. *The Radio and Television News Directors Association Annual meeting.*)

Murrow: This might just do nobody any good. At the end of this discourse a few people may accuse this reporter of fouling ⁽¹⁾ his own comfortable nest, and your organization may be accused of having given hospitality to heretical ⁽²⁾ and even dangerous people.

(*This will become what will later be called “The Box of Lights and Wires Speech.” One of the most important broadcast journalism speeches ever.*)

Murrow: But the elaborate structure of networks, advertising agencies and sponsors will not be shaken or altered. It is my desire, if not my duty, to try to talk to you journeymen with some candor about what is happening to radio and television. If what I

have to say is responsible, then I also am responsible for the saying of it. Our history will be what we make of it. And if there are any historians about fifty or a hundred years from now, and there should be preserved the kinescopes ⁽³⁾ for one week of all three networks, they will there find recorded in black and white, or color, evidence of decadence, escapism and insulation from the realities of the world in which we live. We are currently wealthy, fat, comfortable and complacent. We have a built-in allergy to ⁽⁴⁾ unpleasant or disturbing information. Our mass media reflects this. But unless we get up off our fat surpluses and recognize that television in the main is being used to distract, delude, amuse and insulate us, then television and those who finance it, those who look at it and those who work at it, may see a totally different picture too late.



Photos by Jacky

Scene 2: Joe and Shirley Wershba's New York Appartment

(*Sitting silently at home, in the control room, the newsroom, Paley's office, at home with Shirley Wershba.*)

Murrow: Earlier, the Senator asked, “Upon what meat does this our Caesar feed?” Had he looked three lines earlier in Shakespeare’s “Caesar” he would have found this line which is not altogether inappropriate: “The fault, dear Brutus ⁽⁵⁾, is not in our stars but in ourselves.” No one familiar with the history of this country can deny that congressional committees are useful. It is necessary to investigate before legislating, but the line between investigating and persecuting ⁽⁶⁾ is a very fine one; and the Junior Senator from Wisconsin has stepped over it repeatedly. We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. We must remember always that accusation is not proof and that conviction depends upon evidence and due process of law. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason, if we dig deep in our history and our doctrine, and



remember that we are not descended from ⁽⁷⁾ fearful men, not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend the causes that were for the moment unpopular.

(*Continued*)

Murrow: We proclaim ourselves as indeed we are, the

defenders of freedom, wherever it continues to exist in the world; but we cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home. The actions of the junior senator from Wisconsin have caused alarm and dismay amongst our allies abroad and given considerable comfort to our enemies. And, whose fault is that? Not really his. He didn't create this situation of fear, he merely exploited it, and rather successfully. Cassius ⁽⁸⁾ was right. “The fault dear Brutus is not in our stars, but in ourselves.” Good night. And good luck.

Scene 3: Pentagon Bar

(*Joe and Shirley come back in with several papers stacked under their arms.*)

Shirley: Alright, here we go ... *The Times*.

Scot: Who wrote it?

Shirley: Jack Gould.

Wershba: Gould.

Shirley: “Edward R. Murrow’s television program on Senator Joseph R. McCarthy was an exciting and provocative examination of the man and his methods. It was crusading journalism of high responsibility and courage. For TV so often plagued by timidity and hesitation, the program was a milestone that reflected enlightened citizenship.”

(*They all cheer.*)

Friendly: He didn't like it.

Murrow: Yeah, what's this guy's beef ⁽⁹⁾?

Shirley: Hold on ... “The program was no less an indictment ⁽¹⁰⁾ of those who wish the problems posed by the senator's tactics and theatrics would just go away and leave them alone. That was Mr. Murrow's and television's triumph, and a very great one.”

Movie of the Week

By He Jiamwei

If you know the history of American journalism, you definitely know Edward R. Murrow, the most distinguished and renowned figure in the history of American broadcast journalism. His radio program *This Is London* and TV program *See It Now* have been eminent symbols for broadcasting. This film was nominated for six Academy awards, including Best Original Screenplay in 2006.



Vocabulary

1. **foul:** to make dirty with waste or impure matter
2. **heretical:** of, relating to, or characterized by departure from accepted beliefs or standards
3. **kinescopes:** a motion picture made from an image on a picture tube
4. **allergy to:** a feeling of antipathy or aversion
5. **Brutus:** Marcus Junius (85-42 BC), a Roman politician and conspirator
6. **persecute:** to harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, grieve or afflict; specifically, to cause to suffer because of belief
7. **be descended from:** having the stated person or animal as grandfather, grandmother or great-grandfather.
8. **Cassius:** Gaius Cassius Longinus (85-42 BC), a Roman general and conspirator against Julius Caesar
9. **what's this guy's beef:** what is this person's complaint?
10. **indictment:** a formal written statement framed by a prosecuting authority and found by a jury charging a person with an offense

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Duck or buck?

By He Jianwei

At this year's Modern Sky Music Festival, Taiwanese singer Sandee Chan debuted on the Chinese mainland's stage. After her show, some of my friends talked about their favorite albums from this artist.

Katie Liu, one of my classmates, said her favorite track was "Washington Cut Down the Cherry Tree." "All the songs on this album tell stories from daily life. At first glance, they seem trifling, but the songs contain deep meaning," Liu said.

"Just like the name of the song, George Washington cut down the cherry tree in his garden, but he didn't pass the duck," she said.

"Hey, hold on. What do you mean by 'pass the duck?'" one of my friends Kevin Jiang said.

"Washington admitted his act and didn't pass responsibility on to someone else," Liu said.

"Duck? I thought it was 'buck,'" Jiang said.

Then, they quarreled about whether it was "duck" or "buck."

After we returned home, we looked up "buck" in the dictionary. The most common use of the word today is as a slang term for the western dollar. That's not the buck meant here though.

Look a little further down the list and you will find "buck – an article used in a game of poker," and that's the buck that is passed.

The practice became very popular in the US during the second half of the 19th century. Players were highly suspicious of cheating or any form of bias and there is considerable folklore depicting gunslingers in shoot-outs based on accusations of dirty dealing.

In order to avoid cheating the deal changed hands many times during games. The person who was next in line to deal would be given a marker. This was often a knife, and knives often had handles made out of a buck's horn, hence the marker becoming known as a buck. When the dealer's turn was done he "passed the buck."

So it is clear that Liu confused buck with duck. You can use the phrase in the following sentence, "If you break something, do not pass the buck, admit that you did it."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Foreigners seeking home stay are usually age 20 to 25.

In terms of standard grammar, this sentence should read: "Foreigners seeking a home stay are usually aged from 20 to 25."

2. Fours Emmys to his name

You should say "Four Emmys" instead of "Fours Emmys," meaning he has accumulated four Emmy awards. Similarly, it should be: two Olympic swimming gold medals to his name.

3. Despite of hard life

In English, "despite" is followed by a noun or a noun clause without "of" while the phrase "in spite of" must assume the preposition "of". Beginners are liable to get confused with the two. It should be: "despite a hard life," or, "in spite of a hard life."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Foreigners seeking home stay are usually age 20 to 25

One letter and one word are lost in the above sentence and seeking a grammatical home stay. Those elements are the letter "d" and the word "from." Position them as follows and you will be home, "Foreigners seeking a home stay are usually aged from 20 to 25."

2. Fours Emmys to his name

The word "Fours" in the above sentence is definitely not a grammatical award-winner! You can say something comes in fours, but it cannot be used in plural before a

noun. Drop the "s" and, if there was an Emmy for correct grammar, you would have won it. The sentence should read, "Four Emmys to his name."

3. Despite of hard life

In a sentence where despite is followed by a noun or noun clause, the word, "of" must be out of sight to make despite right. But, be wary that when using the phrase, "in spite of," you will notice that the preposition must be used. The above sentence should be, "Despite a hard life" or, possibly, "in spite of a hard life."

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



When Chinglish is missing the English

By Derrick Sobodash

Before attacking this sign, it is probably time this column define what "Chinglish" is.

The term – a portmanteau of Chinese and English – as *Beijing Today* uses it refers to that wondrous creation wherein English becomes "enhanced" with vocabulary and grammar errors mostly unique to persons whose mother-tongue is Chinese.

It is difficult then to call "Fii Develop Tafd Debar Clamber" a stunning example: it is not the result of direct translation, it uses words which do not exist and aside from select oddly-placed English words, resembles the result of a cat stomping on the keyboard.

After searching several dictionaries, Fii was nowhere to be found. The only references were as FII, a symbol on the New York Stock Exchange, or as an acronym for Foreign Institutional Investor. It could also be the word "for" in Arabic.

Develop is the definition the writer selected for *kaifa*, and it is not terribly correct. In this sense, it is referring to an original section of the Great Wall.

Tafd is cat stomp for "The Great Wall."

On the second line, Debar is properly selected, though its use in this context is incredibly uncommon. Much as the Michiganism "dethaw" actually means to thaw, debar in this sense means to exclude, bar or forbid someone from something. While the word dates back to middle English via old French, today it is reserved for when a lawyer is barred from practicing law.

Our last word, Clamber, is much too specific for this sign, it is close in meaning to scramble, and means to climb with great difficulty on all fours. For example, a mountain climber attempting to escape from an angry puma could "clamber to the summit."

The whole message, retranslated, should be, "Original section of the Great Wall: Do not climb!"

Interestingly, this sign appears to be the sister of one sighted in *TIME* magazine's China Blog in November, "Fii Whxu Tafd Debar Clamber." Essentially the same, but referring to an unrestored section.

If you take anything away from the Chinglish page this week, let it be that cats and computers used to translate public notices do not mix.



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"EVERY MONTH"

5 Friday, December 21

Exhibition Youth Essay - Group Exhibition



The exhibition features Zhao Bo, Ge Lin, Fang Nan, Zhang Yexing, Dai Ruixue and Li Chengcheng.
 Where:
 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 6 pm, until January 3
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

My Landscape - Wang Chuan Solo Exhibition

Where: Courtyard Gallery, 319 Caochangdi, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 11 am - 6 pm, until January 20
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6526 8882

Outdoor Great Wall Mutianyu & Ming Tombs

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.
 When: 9 am - 6:30 pm, December 26
 Cost: 350 yuan
 Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (Registration at CCC is important)



6 Saturday, December 22

Exhibition Deviation and Weightlessness - Wu Jun Solo Exhibition



In Wu Jun's art creations - in a romantic, fragmentary, floating and lyrically-imagined space, you will experience both his deep-level questioning about expression of existence and his works about culture metaphor.

Where: Expol-Sources Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, until January 13
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6431 4793

Music Sweet Winter Dream

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 10 pm
 Admission: 30 yuan
 Tel: 8196 4820

Movie La Vie est un Long Fleuve Tranquille



Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 7:30 pm
 Admission: 10-20 yuan
 Tel: 6553 2627

Sunday, December 23

Exhibition Invisible Vision



Where: HAN JI YUN Contemporary Space, A 1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang
 When: Daily 10 am - 7 pm, until January 27
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6434 0266

Different Landscapes



Where: Beijing Margin Art, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 11 am - 6 pm, until December 31
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8709 3557

Music We are all Good Friends

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang
 When: 2:30 pm - 10 pm, December 23
 Admission: 40 yuan
 Tel: 6425 5677

Service

2007 Christmas Festivities

Hotel Kunlun's 2007 Christmas festivities include entertainment and lucky draws at most venues, as well as a grand hotel lucky draw at the end of the evening on December 24. This year's Grand Prize for the hotel lucky draw features an 8-day holiday for two to Spain!

Where: Hotel Kunlun, 2

Xinyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang
 Open: 6:30 pm - midnight, December 24

Admission: 888-2,688 yuan
 Tel: 6590-3388 ext 5258 (for bookings)

Dragon Palace Chinese Restaurant

Hong Kong Chef So has created a new menu with a fine selection of dishes from his recipe collection.

Where: Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 Open: 11:30 am - 2 pm, 5:30 am - 10 pm
 Tel: 6465 3388 ext 4108

Christmas Set Menu

Where: Eudora Station, 6 Fangyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang
 Open: 6 pm - midnight, December 24
 Cost: 538 per person
 Tel: 6437 8813

Dinner + Music For Reservation
 at 6pm at 9:30pm 6437-8813/8331

CHRISTMAS
 圣诞节 家庭聚会
 Family and Fun
 Dec. 24th, 12/24th
 晚餐+音乐, 家庭聚会, 欢乐时光
 Christmas Set Specials ¥538
 Includes a glass of wine or a soft drink
 Half price for 12 years old
 圣诞套餐 ¥538
 含一杯葡萄酒或软饮
 12岁及以下半价

Stage in December

Dance

Ballet Jewels by Kirov

Who: Kirov
 Where: National Grand Theater Opera theater, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Swan Lake by Russia

Ballet Troupe

Who: Russia Ballet Troupe
 Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, January 31 - February 1

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Drama

Musical Cats

Who: The Really Useful Group's International Touring of Andrew Lloyd Webber's production

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

January 19-27

Admission: 80-1,680 yuan

Concert

Soprano Te Kanawa

Solo Concert

Who: Te Kanawa
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 2

Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Lang Lang Piano

Solo Concert

Who: Lang Lang
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 180-2,008 yuan

Berlin Philharmonic

Brass Quintet

Who: Berlin Philharmonic Brass Quintet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 7-8

Admission: 50-580 yuan

World Famous

Tenor Jose Carreras

Solo Concert

Who: Jose Carreras
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 380-1,880 yuan

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008

Musical Festival

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Vitas 2008 Beijing Concert

Who: Vitas

Where: Capital Gymnasium, 5 Baishiqiao, Xi Zhimen, Haidian

When: January 24

Admission: 280-1,880 yuan

(By Li Jing)